3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

8

JETS COMICS

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羽海野チカ
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JETS COMICS

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新人王となった零は様々な人々の期待を受け
宗谷名人との記念対局に臨む。
この対局をきっかけに
零は宗谷の重大な秘密を知ることになる。
一方、島田八段は棋匠戦で初タイトルをかけ
柳原棋匠と死闘を繰り広げていた…
お互いのすべてを出し尽くした勝負の行方は…？
「戦い続ける事」その重さを読者の方に問いかけます。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく優しい物語です。
（平成24年12月刊行）

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message

Recent Photo of the Author's cat

羽海野チカ
Chica Umino

'Ding-dong. Is Bun-chan the~~re?'
'Yes, she's here - I'm her.'
Recently, Mama has been inquiring like this a lot.
I'm worried she's a parent that will never be able to let go of her child.
But I am an adult, so I will always care about my Mama.
After all, I only have one Mama in this whole wide world.

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JUTA COMICS

March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン 8 羽海野チカ

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March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン

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羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学八段

8

Chapter 74 White Storm ② 7

Chapter 75 White Storm ③ 27

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Chapter 78 Restart 75

Chapter 79 Burnt Field ① 91

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Chapter 83 Being Here 155

This is a work of fiction. There is no connection to actual people, groups, or events whatsoever.

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Chapter 74

White Storm ②

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

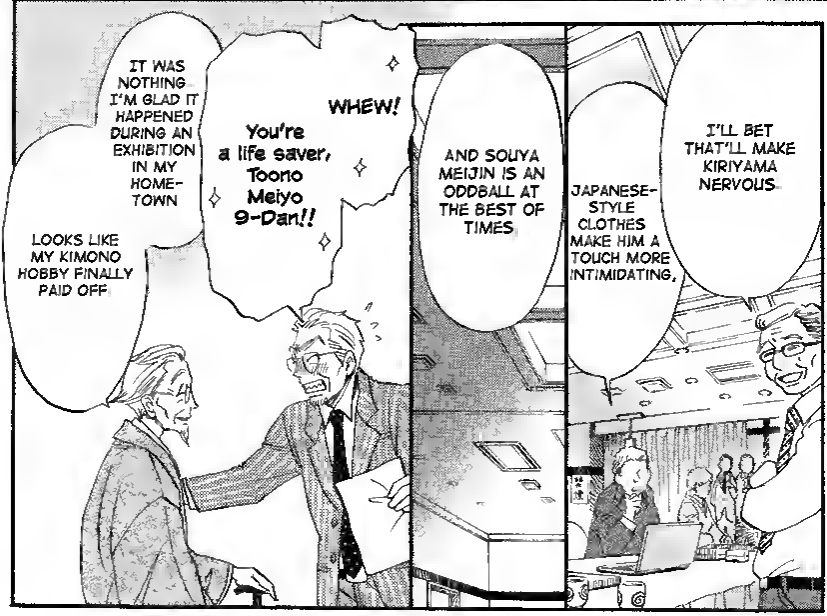
I wonder why.

—Suddenly, I remembered

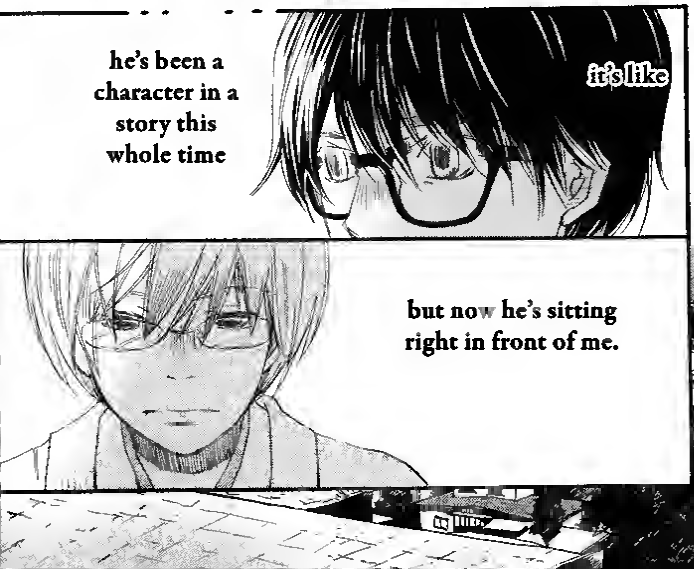
SOUYA?
—A time when I was a child
...YEAH.
In my garden

There was a white crane
with large wings that had wandered in.
HE'S KIND OF LIKE
A BIRD.

SOUYA MEIJIN IS IN JAPANESE-STYLE CLOTHES!!
I THOUGHT IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR BOTH OF THEM TO WEAR SUITS AT COMMEMORATIVE MATCHES.


I'LL BET THAT'LL MAKE KIRIYAMA NERVOUS.
JAPANESE-STYLE CLOTHES MAKE HIM A TOUCH MORE INTIMIDATING.
AND SOUYA MEIJIN IS AN ODDBALL AT THE BEST OF TIMES.
WHEW!
You're a life saver, Toono Meiyo 9-Dan!!
IT WAS NOTHING. I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED DURING AN EXHIBITION IN MY HOME-TOWN.
LOOKS LIKE MY KIMONO HOBBY FINALLY PAID OFF.

HE'S TURNED IT INTO A FAMILY HEIRLOOM
HAVING SOUYA MEIJIN WEAR ONE OF THEM
IS A REAL HONOR
–Whew, we're saved!!
Toono Meiyo 9-dan lent us a kimono!!
He went to get it from his house in the city last night after the incident!
We couldn't get that wine stain out of his suit ya see.
WAAA
WAAA
It was a bit of a splatter, wasn't it?
AH, I SUPPOSE IT REALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN RATHER UNCOUTH TO PLAY LIKE THAT
With a red wine stain.


he's been a character in a story this whole time
it's like
It's strange...
but now he's sitting right in front of me.

—Get it together.

Remember what you said yesterday?

AH

I'M GOING TO FOCUS SO

IT DOESN'T END IN AN INSTANT

And I'm playing against him...

SFX: PACHI...

Moving ...

and breathing.

Starting now,

I have to compete with this person.

but I'm fully aware of the enormous difference between us

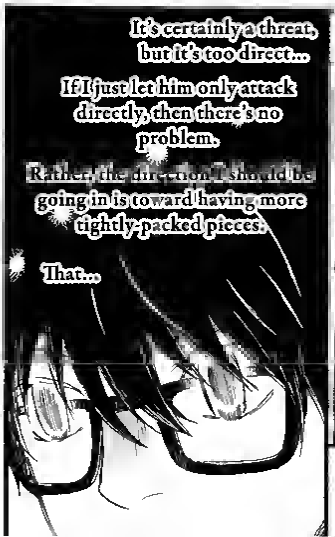
if I go into this with anything other than the goal of 'winning'

MUTUAL YAGURA, HUH
WELL, PERHAPS THEY'RE TRYING TO GET A FEEL FOR EACH OTHER?
I SUPPOSE THAT'S BECAUSE THIS IS THEIR FIRST GAME
OR MAYBE THEIR PLAY FLOWED THIS WAY NATURALLY?
HM? SOUYA PLAYED 2-8 GIN.
2-8 GIN?

my head will go flying in an instant.
LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME.

—2-8 Gin.
I've never seen that move before... Is this research?
—So that means

FROM SOUYA-KUN
HOHO
THIS IS A WRITTEN QUESTION-NAIRE
ASKING "HELLO, WHO ARE YOU?"
MORE OR LESS.

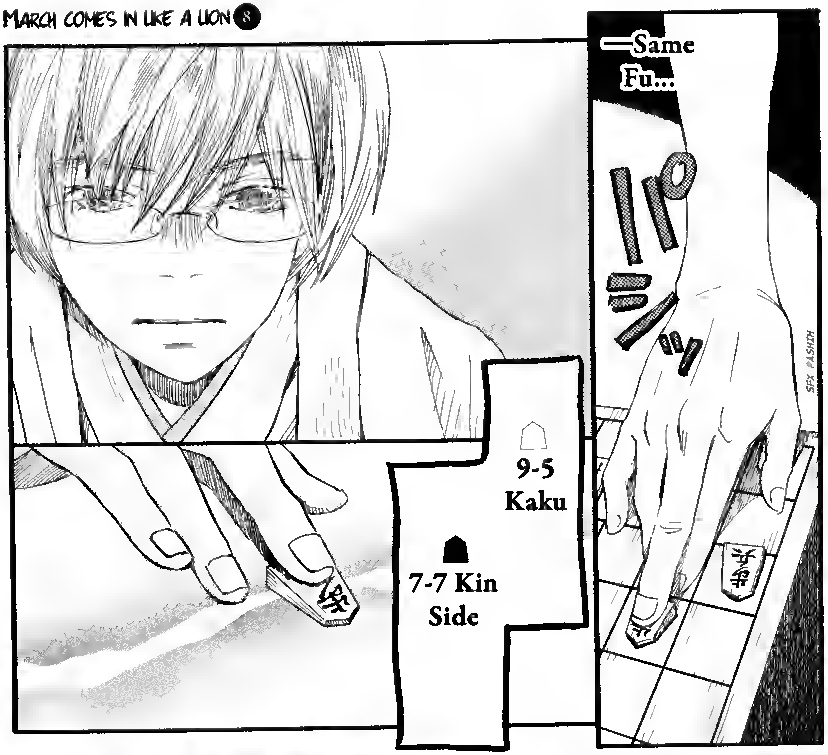

It's certainly a threat, but it's too direct...
If I just let him only attack directly, then there's no problem.
Rather, the direction I should be going in is toward having more tightly-packed pieces.
That...

3-8 Hi
1-9 Gin Promote
5-7 Gin Right
8-8 Kou

kaku head is it.
SFX: PASHIEH
KIRIYAMA IS FAVORED, ISN'T HE?
HM, ACTUALLY, AT THIS STAGE
NO, NO
THIS IS A MID-GAME BETWEEN A NEWCOMER 5-DAN AND THE CURRENT MEIJIN
—MAKES SENSE, HIM BEING THE SECOND MIDDLE SCHOOL PRO AFTER SOUYA
KIRIYAMA IS PLAYING WELL
NO, BUT
DRAMATIC
THAT'S JUST THE FLAG OF DEFEAT
IF WE'RE AT THE POINT OF SAYING 'THE NEWCOMER IS ACTUALLY IN A SUPERIOR POSITION?!'
—THEN IT'S ALREADY

That's right.
5-5 Fu
Same Gin Left
IT JUST GOES TO SHOW
WHAT THAT BOY HAS IN HIM
7-5 Fu
His kaku head is setup for this...
HOHO-HOHO
IT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE THAT THERE'S EVEN A DISCUSSION ABOUT IT
YES, THAT'S RIGHT IT CAN'T GO THAT WELL
—BUT,
HE REALLY IS DOING WELL. ISN'T HE?
NO, I REALLY THINK SOUYA HAS THE UPPER HAND
No...
7-4 Fu...
Why didn't I realize?! I've got 8-6 Fu, don't I?!
What am I doing ...?!
Why is it
that the moment I let go of the piece
I felt a slight jolt of pain in my fingertips...
SPX PASHIN
7-4 Fu.

If he threatens with 8-6 Fu now then...
I've got nothing left!!
8-6 Fu...

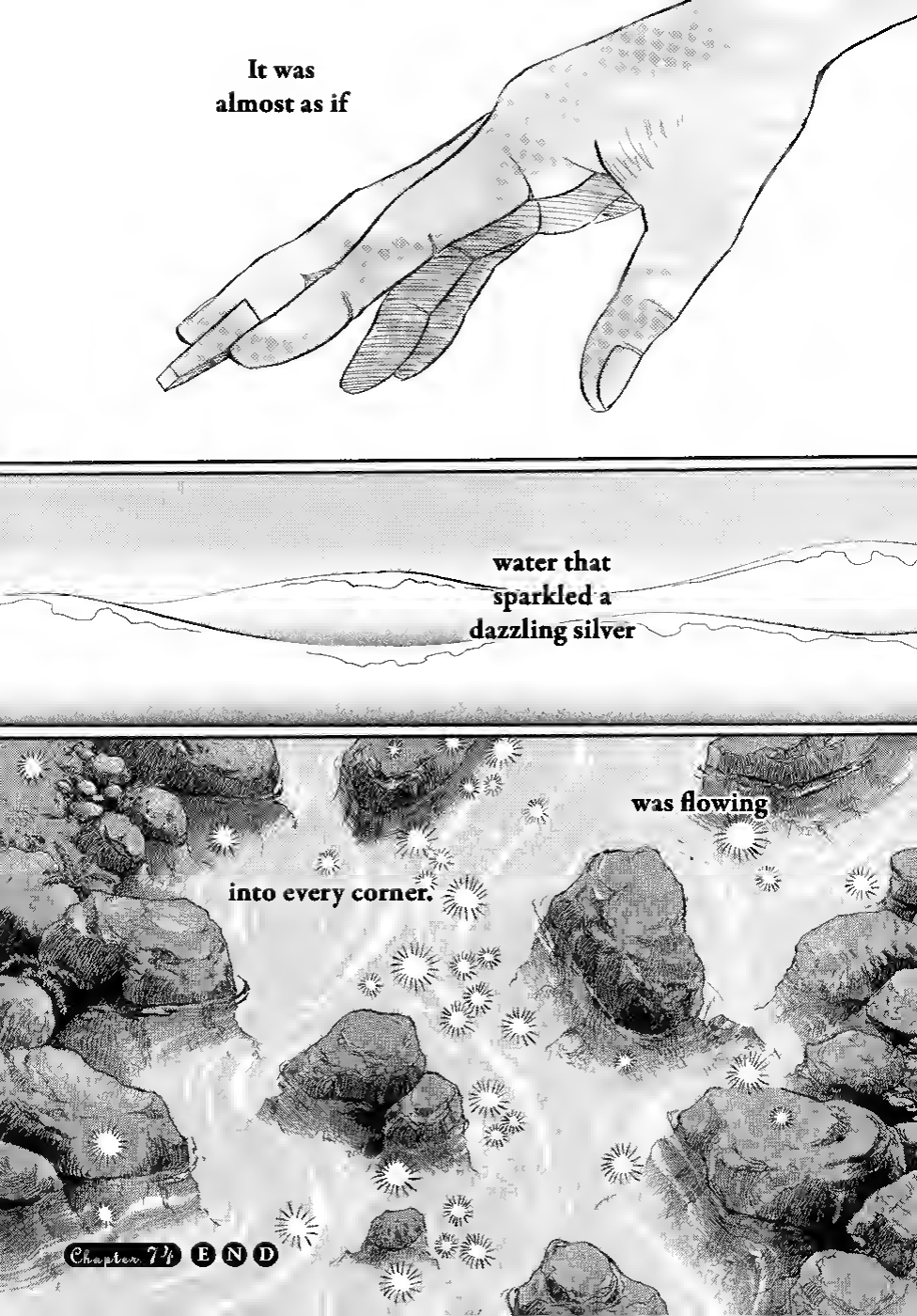

—Same Fu...
パシン
SFX: FLASH
9-5 Kaku
7-7 Kin Side

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?
SOUYA GOES WITH 8-5 FU.
KIRIYAMA, THAT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH TO DEAL WITH!
TAKE WITH SAME FU?

9-6 FU!
THAT'S SAME FU, ISN'T IT?!
SFX: SUU
—I SEE
—OH!! IF HE TAKES 8-5 FU WITH SAME FU
AND THEN COLLIDES WITH 9-3 KEI, THEN HE CAN'T FULLY SUPPORT THE GYOKU HEAD...
BUT I THINK THIS MIGHT BE THE END
THAT 7-4 FU BEFORE REALLY HURT
—STILL, HE AVOIDED SOUYA'S 8-5, DIDN'T HE?
SFX: PACHIN
パチン!!

SOUYA-KUN HAS PLAYED ANOTHER TROUBLING MOVE...
LET'S SEE...
KIRIYAMA 5-DAN,
WILL YOU TAKE THIS PROMOTED KYOU WITH YOUR HISHA,
OR WON'T YOU?
—THE CORRECT ANSWER IS...
WELL WELL,
6-8 PROMOTED KYOU...
SFX: FUH...

GEEZ
THAT'S WHY I'M INTERESTED IN THIS GUY
HE'S PLAYING THE OPTIMAL MOVES IN A MATTER-OF-FACT WAY.
OOH
HE DIDN'T TOUCH THE BAIT
AND RESTRAINEDLY PLAYED 7-3 FU PROMOTE!
a bright flash seemed to flare up.
In my mind, with every clack of the pieces
After that, I was in a trance.
I realized
that in my head
something was gradually becoming connected.



Chapter 7 END

WHY... DO PEOPLE PLAY BAD MOVES...?! THE REASON IS...

The game of Sbogi is truly difficult so even pro players will often play bad moves: people who have been playing shogi constantly since childhood can easily slip up. Or for another way of putting it, even if there is some decisive best move from the perspective of some kind of shogi god, a human is swimming in an endlessly changing ocean.

For a start, while there are usually only around one or two good moves, there are mountains of bad ones. There are two major groups of bad moves: the first is the type that, on a difficult board, you end up playing after slowly pondering it. To a certain degree, you could say mistakes like these are inevitable - on a board with many possible moves, it's not easy to find a move that's flawless.

The other kind is a simple, careless bad move made on a very simple board. Commonly, this is called a blunder - the kind that, when looked at in hindsight, was a stupid move that lost you the game. I have experience with them myself and there is nothing more frustrating. You start seething with anger, "How many years have I been playing shogi?!", and for a while after that the board won't leave your head and it can be hard to sleep.

Bad moves frequently show up in the end game. Perhaps because the players are tired, or simply because there's only one good move. For example, the opponent's gyoku could be mated, but you play another move - anyone would call that a bad move. But by that logic, it's much harder to tell what a bad move is in the opening. But moving along that line of thought, there are few moves that can be specifically stated as bad moves. Surely from a god's perspective, all human moves are bad ones, but they just can't tell.

There are conditions which make bad moves happen much more easily. The first is when seconds are being read off, I think the reason here goes without saying: you don't have enough time to think the move through. The next is after lengthy considerations - this seems like a contradiction to the seconds being read off, but because the sorts of boards that need lengthy considerations are so difficult, bad moves happen frequently there too.

Also, something that seems very human-like to me is the moment where you think you're going to win. The instant you think you can win a shogi game that's stretched on, you stop paying careful attention and make bad moves. And this sometimes connects to losses; blunders frequently happen at these moments. Pro players are well aware of this, so even if they're certain they'll win, they pay careful attention to not overly relax.

Bad moves are moves that call more bad moves. The moment you realize you've made one you can get flustered and end up making a poor move on the next turn as well. And that is really an awful situation - that's a sure way to lose a game. Even if you take these examples, if you don't want to play bad moves, strengthening your mental fortitude is vital.

Chapter 75

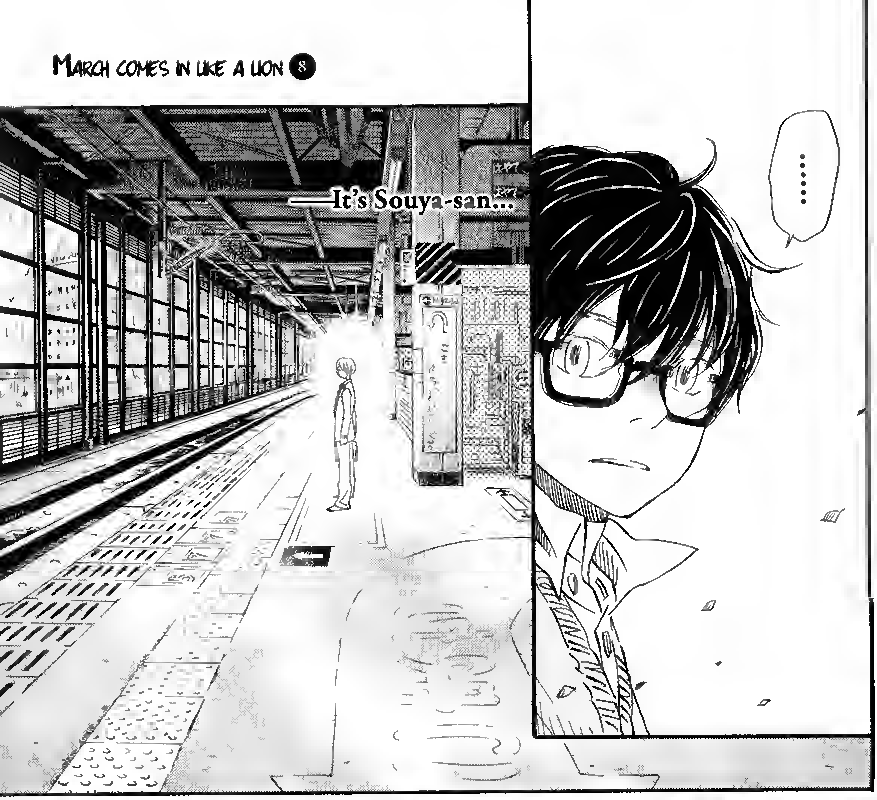
White Storm ③

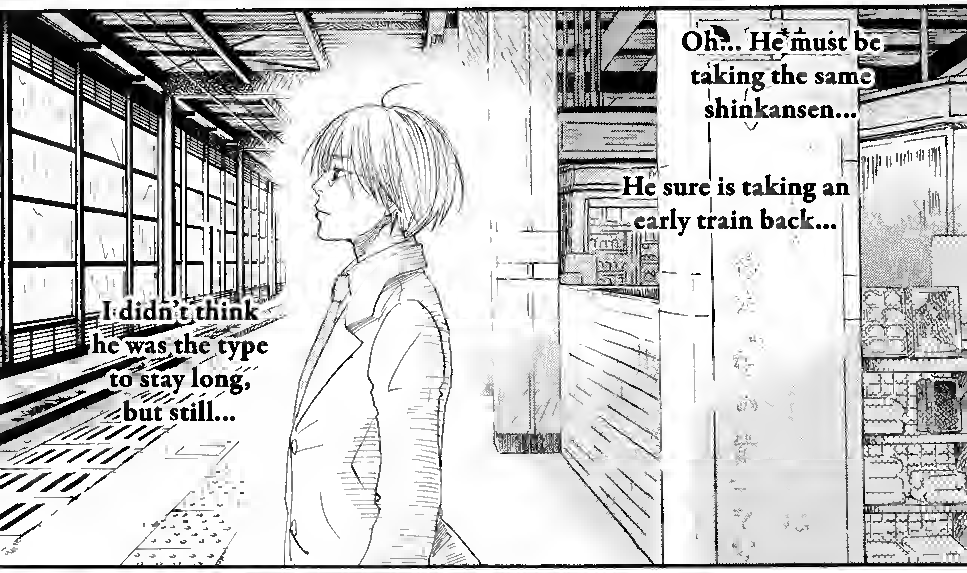
3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

I realized it was a losing move...
—The moment my hand was off it
The moment I let go of that 7-4 Fu
I had a sensation like the surface of my fingers were being torn off.
I suddenly thought
—But at the same time
I knew there was nowhere to go after that.
—If
all of the moves
I played after that were optimal

how far could I take this game...?
ゴゴゴゴ
SFX GOHH
THE WIND SURE IS STRONG
IS THE TYPHOON NOT GOING TO ESCAPE INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN?
IT'D BE NICE IF IT DIDN'T STOP
I HAVE CLASS IN THE AFTERNOON – IT'D BE NICE IF THEY MADE IT A HALF-DAY


—It's Souya-san...
.....


I didn't think he was the type to stay long, but still...
He sure is taking an early train back...
Oh... He must be taking the same shinkansen...

I've watched him.
Ever since I was a kid
has always been alone.
—Yeah...
But in my memory, this person...
I didn't see him laughing or talking either...
I didn't see him interacting with other people all that much ...
—That's right, it's odd.
I fought this person yesterday.
—I battled him
and I lost.....

My body doesn't feel beavy or anything at all.
I lost, but I don't feel tired at all.
I've never felt like this before...
—I wonder why.
—But what really felt clear to me
and giving up.
I had no intention of just going in
While I knew there was no way I was going to win from the beginning,
was that in experience and research
I was absolutely not catching up.
just due to the period of time which is our difference in years
And that I still have no idea how to shrink that gap.

—I'm not sure how to say this,
but I always felt that feeling refreshed and feeling like you enjoyed yourself
after losing was actually really disrespectful to your opponent.
It feels like making a household shrine for your opponent
deciding on your own to go pray there and take it upon yourself to feel refreshed...
—That's what I've always thought...
but,
I felt like you weren't thinking of the person as a person.
what happened in yesterday's match...?

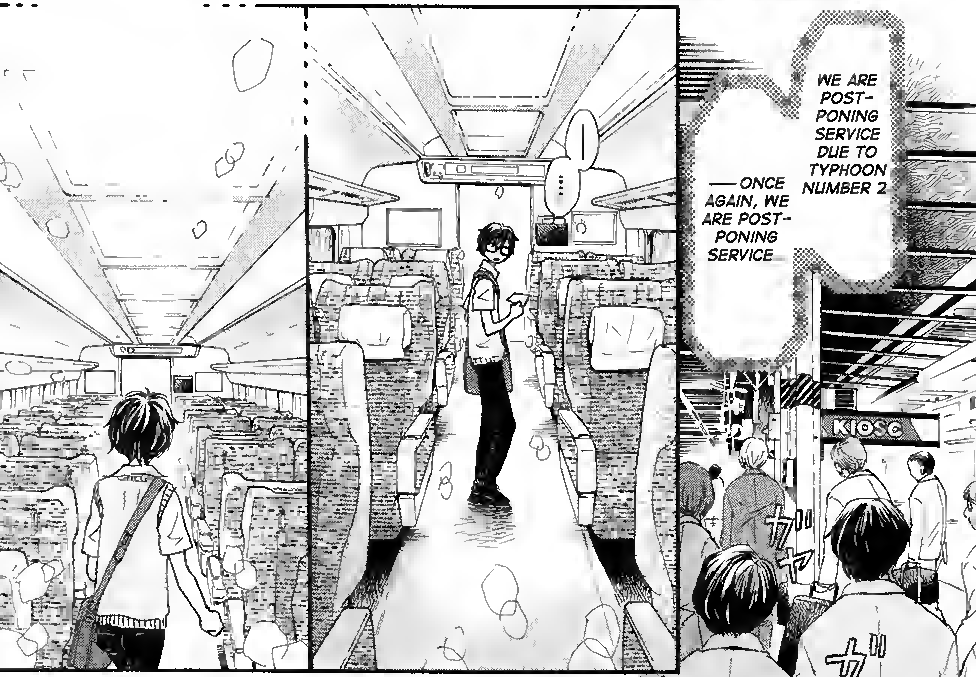
completely blank.
It felt like we were in a pure-white field the whole time we played.
—And it felt really comfortable.
it's just . . .
But with him
Whenever I'm competing with another player
no matter how bit the skill difference between us is, to some degree
I can trace what they're thinking.
WITHOUT SAYING A SINGLE THING
THE TWO OF THEM JUST PRESSED FORWARD
I'VE NEVER SEEN A GAME LIKE THAT
WITH THAT POST-MORTEM ANALYSIS WITH SOUYA MEIJIN AND KIRIYAMA 5-DAN...?
MAN, WHAT WAS GOING ON YESTERDAY...

AFTER THE GAME ENDED AND THEY STARTED THE POST-MORTEM
KIRIYAMA SUDDENLY STARTED SILENTLY LINING UP THE PIECES WITH SO MUCH ENERGY
—AND THEN
THEY WENT UP TO THE 63RD MOVE
AND HE THEN PLAYED 6-6 GIN
WHICH WASN'T IN THE ACTUAL GAME
WHEN THAT HAPPENED, SOUYA MEIJN
NODDED JUST A LITTLE BIT
I GUESS THAT 7-4 FU REALLY WAS THE LOSING MOVE FOR KIRIYAMA.
I SUPPOSE HE WAS SAYING THE 6-6 GIN PLAYED IN THE POST-MORTEM WAS MORE PROMISING

'That's how it is.'
AND THAT WAS ALL...
—AND WHAT CAME AFTER THAT WAS AMAZING.
WHEN THE POST-MORTEM ENDED
HE GLANCED AT HIS FINGERS FOR A MOMENT
'THAT'S HOW IT IS'.
I'M SURE I HEARD THE MEIJIN SAY—
WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT WAS—?
BUT KIRIYAMA NEVER SAID A SINGLE WORD

I was thinking 'There's a world like this?'.
—It got through even though I didn't say it.
I thought he might have accidentally said what he was thinking out loud.
It surprised me when that happened.
I was in a place
where it was quiet,
bright,
and nothing was scary.

SFX: GASHIH GAH TAH GATA
Salarymen that are all used to this
—Stood up the moment they heard the announcement
That was fast!!
HUH?
HUH?
DUE TO THE HIGH WATER-LEVEL OF THE ABUKUMA RIVER
AS A RESULT OF TYPHOON NUMBER 2,
WE ARE POST-PONING THIS SERVICE
ALSO, WE HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED
WHEN OPERATIONS WILL RESUME
—After 12 hours, on reaching Sendai Station the shinkansen stopped moving.


WE ARE POST-PONING SERVICE DUE TO TYPHOON NUMBER 2
—ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE POST-PONING SERVICE
KIOSC
SFX: GAYA GAYA (HURRUR)

UH...
SOUYA-SAN...
HE'S ASLEEP
SOUYA-SAN.
UM
What do I do?
UM
Ah-
びくり
EXCUSE ME
SFX: BIKUH (SURPRISE)
UM, IT LOOKS LIKE THE TRAIN
ISN'T
RUNNING ANYMORE
.....
.....

SOUYA-
SAN?
SFX: ZAAAAA...
THEY JUST ANNOUNCED THAT THEY DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO RESUME SERVICE TODAY, SO—
THEY SAID THEY'LL REFUND OUR TICKETS...
AND ONCE WE DO THAT...
His face looks like none of this is reaching him.
WE NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT
My heart's beating really loudly.

All of the pieces matched.
so I pulled his arm.
I felt I couldn't leave him alone
It wasn't that sound seemed to disappear everywhere around this person.
It was that sound
had gone from inside him.

How?
When did it start?
—I don't know.
But nothing reaches
those ears
anymore.
Chapter 75 END

3月のライオン

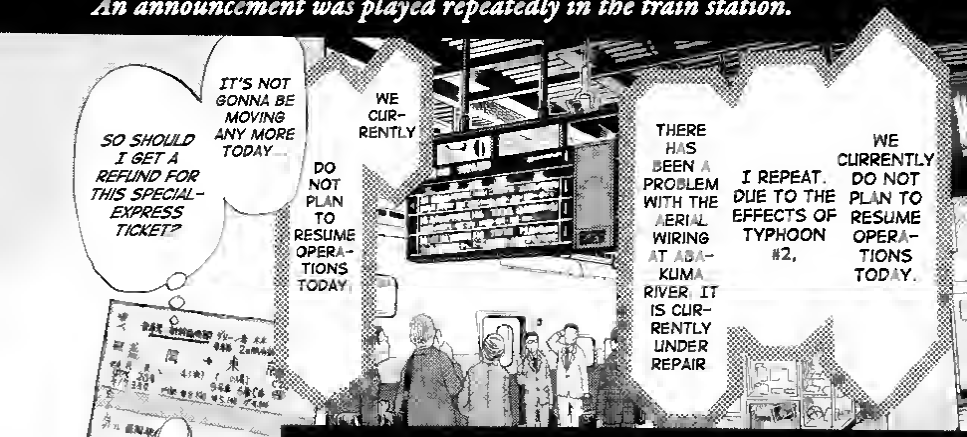
March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

—When I start walking,
he starts walking.
—When I stop.
he stops.

a god
quietly
following
after me.
—It's like
there's...

An announcement was played repeatedly in the train station.


SO SHOULD I GET A REFUND FOR THIS SPECIAL-EXPRESS TICKET?
IT'S NOT GONNA BE MOVING ANY MORE TODAY...
WE CURRENTLY DO NOT PLAN TO RESUME OPERATIONS TODAY.
THERE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM WITH THE AERIAL WIRING AT ABAKUMA RIVER. IT IS CURRENTLY UNDER REPAIR
I REPEAT. DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF TYPHOON #2,
WE CURRENTLY DO NOT PLAN TO RESUME OPERATIONS TODAY.

within the dampness of the heavy rain

SFX: ZAWA ZAWA ZAWA (CROWD TALKING)
SOUYA-SAN?
...
AND SEE IF I CAN GET PAID BACK FOR THESE SPECIAL-EXPRESS TICKETS
I'M GOING TO LINE UP FOR THE GREEN TICKET WINDOW
I REPEAT DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF TYPHOON #2,
I GUESS I GOT OFF THE TRAIN KINDA LATE...
THE GREEN TICKET WINDOW SURE LOOKS CROWDED

and the building

was jammed with people.

We need to get a room setup.
finding a place to stay the night ...
Um ...
yeah, next is
WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK SO WE COULD GO HERE, TOO
OH
I see
Ooh
THANK YOU
WELL, WE GOT OUR MONEY BACK
AND FINISHED SETTING UP OUR REGULAR PASSENGER TICKETS
UM, WHICH SHOULD WE GO FOR?
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S GONNA BE A TON OF RAIN,
SO MAYBE THE ONE CLOSEST TO THE TRAIN STATION
OR ONE CONNECTED TO IT BY AN UNDERGROUND PATH
—THIS IS A BIG STATION, SO THERE MUST BE AN INFO BOARD OR SOME-THING
AH,
THERE IT IS

OH, I SEE. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY VACANCIES? I UNDERSTAND
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YES
MHM
I GUESS EVERYONE REALLY WAS FASTER THAN US
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THE HOTELS CLOSE TO THE STATION ARE OUT OF ROOMS
——BUT THEN WHICH HOTEL SHOULD WE GO TO?
THEY ALL SEEM FINE FROM MY PERSPECTIVE
SFX: SUH
HELLO?
DO YOU HAVE ANY VACANCIES?
YES, 2 SINGLE ROOMS——
OOKAY, GREAT! WE GOT ROOMS
C'MON, LET'S GET GOING
YES
WE'RE HEADING THERE NOW
YES
HM,
IT'S NOT TOO FAR WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WALK THERE
SFX: TAP
THE HAKUSEN INN
OH, THEY HAVE LOTS OF THOSE IN TOKYO, TOO
HAKUSEN INN

THAT WAS CLOSE
THEY SOLD THEM ALL IN ONE FELL SWOOP
THANK GOOD-NESS
THERE WAS A PLACE THAT STILL HAD UMBRELLAS
WE'D BETTER BUY A COUPLE!
OH, RIGHT! UMBRELLAS!!
HUH?! THEY'RE GONE!
KYAA
Sold out
Sold out in no time
SEX GARAAN
THIS GREY AREA MUST BE AN UNDERGROUND ROUTE.
AND THEN WE GO UP
WE CAN GET ALMOST THE ENTIRE WAY UNDERGROUND
OKAY, LET'S GET GOING.
—but It didn't feel real
—This must all
I had a strange feeling of elation.

WHOA! LOOK AT THE HUGE TAXI LINE!!
I'M GLAD WE CAN GET TO THE HOTEL ON FOOT...
—be cause of this typhoon.
LOOK AT ALL THE RAIN.
UOO....
SFX: ZAAAAAAAA... DODODODO~
SFX: BONN
CAN WE GET OUT THIS WAY?
A SERVICE ENTRANCE?
HUH?
UM... THIS IS A truck?!
HUH? UM...
THIS PATH SORTA ENDS AT A STORE...
DO YOU THINK WE CAN GET OUT THIS WAY?
And now he's just suddenly ?!
SFX: GUROORO... ZAAAAA PAPPAAA

SFX ZAAA ZAAAA
ザアアア
ザアア
ポニーンン
SFX PONY
ザアアアア
SFX ZAAAAAA
AH...
NEW GAME
WEEKDAYS

A SANDWICH, AN ONIGIRI, SOME CUP RAMEN AND...
am I gonna be able to get hot water at the hotel?
UM, NOW I JUST NEED
OKAY!
I NEED ENOUGH FOR NOW AND FOR TONIGHT...
AND FOR THE MORNING I GUESS
MM.
I MIGHT'VE BOUGHT TOO MUCH
BUT WITH ALL THIS RAIN, I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK.
THAT'S ALL. ? —HM THIS LINEUP SURE SCREAMS 'EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES'
WATER, CIDER, APPLES, TWO BOXES OF BISCUITS... AND ONE CANDYBAR.
YOUR TOTAL IS 1,540 YEN
*Looks like he got too excited with the whole emergency situat on
Huh?! What?
That much?!
Bought too much
YOUR TOTAL IS 2,980 YEN
どりゃ
SFX DOSSARI (HEAVY)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ザァァァ
ザァァァァァ
ァァァ
ジャァァ
SFX: ZAAAAA PONN
SFX: ZAAAA AAA SHAAA AAA

OVER THERE
I THINK THAT'S IT
UM—
I'M KIRIYAMA, I CALLED A LITTLE WHILE AGO
YES, KIRIYAMA-SAMA WE'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU
—HERE YOU ARE TWO ROOMS ON A NON-SMOKING FLOOR
ROOM NUMBERS 507 AND 508
UM
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU LATER
SFX KASA

THANK YOU
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT
SFX FUHYUUU KUSHA (RUB)
SFX ZAAAA
WHEW
I'M GLAD I MANAGED TO GET A HOTEL.
SFX ZAAAAAAA TASHI TASHI KACHA KACHAH
I guess I'll dry these off...
MY LEGS
ARE SOPPING WET

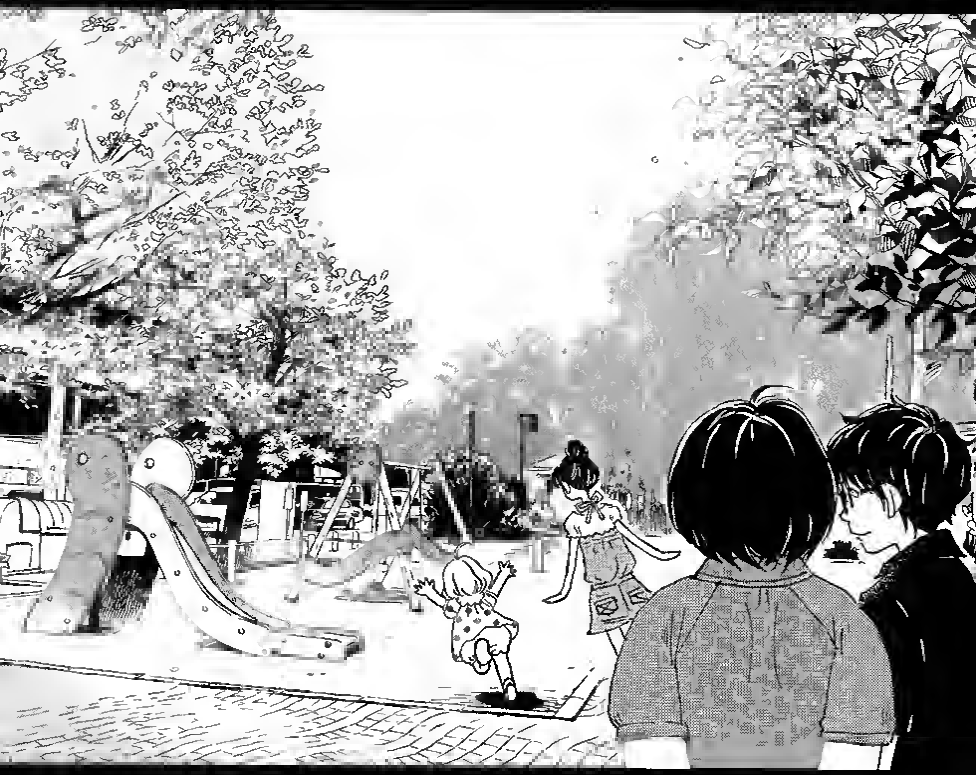
SFX ZAAAAAAAA
YES?
THIS IS KIRIYAMA
YO!! IT'S ME
YOU DOING OKAY?
RRRRRR
PRESIDENT ..?
ARE YOU OKAY? WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
I HEARD THE SHINKANSENS WERE STOPPED BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON.
I'm in Sendai. It looks like they're not restarting service today...
I SEE
WITH THE LOCAL STAFF AND THE SPONSORS I JUST WOKE UP...
OWWOW...
I WAS UP TILL MORNING DRINKING
SFX ZUKI ZUKI (POUNDING)

SFX: ZAAAA
!!
OH...
HE'S WITH YOU...?
YOU GUYS FOUND A PLACE TO STAY THE NIGHT, THEN?
!!
YOU MEAN SOUYA-SAN?
IT'S OKAY. HE'S HERE WITH ME
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE SAME SHIN-KANSEN
SAY....
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
UH, YEAH
IT'S PRETTY CLOSE TO THE SENDAI STATION. IT'S CALLED THE HAKUSEN INN..
OKAY, THAT'S GOOD.
SO...
IF YOU'VE BEEN WITH HIM ALL THAT TIME, THEN...
—YEAH...

HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO HEAR YOU, RIGHT?
Chapter 76 END

Chapter 77

White Storm ⑤



UM...
WHEN DID IT START?
YEAH ...
HM, IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
JUST UNDER 10 YEARS AGO, GIVE OR TAKE.
MAN, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME
SFX: ZAAAAAA

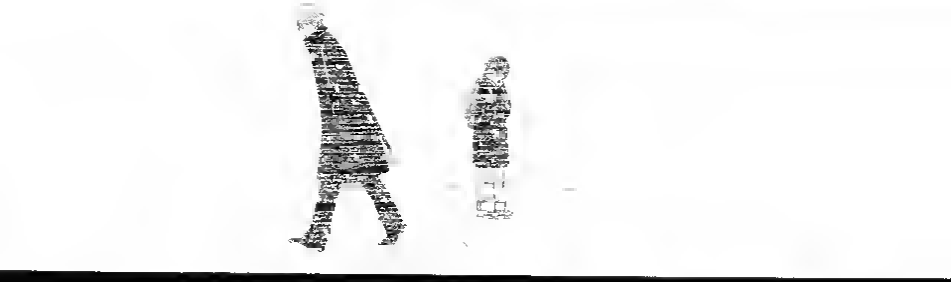
HE WOULD GO IN AND OUT
OF 'BEING ABLE TO HEAR' AND 'NOT BEING ABLE TO HEAR'.

AND
BEING THE GUY HE IS,
AT FIRST
HE WOULD GO TO THE HOSPITAL... BUT LATER DOWN THE LINE
SFX: AAAAAAA
—THEY KEPT SAYING 'IT'S STRESS' AND COULDN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT.
WE WENT TO THE DOCTOR, BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND THE CAUSE
HE WOULD SAY THINGS LIKE 'IT'S QUIET AND IT'S REALLY NOT A PROBLEM. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT'...

when the platform that morning in Morioka popped into my mind.
'What about when he's talking to people?'
—Is what I was about to say,
I MEAN ...
WHAT...?
WOULDN'T HEARING THAT
GET YOU WORRIED?
HE WAS ALWAYS ALONE
IN EVERY MEMORY I HAVE OF THIS PERSON
OR SEEN HIM LAUGHING AND TALKING WITH SOMEONE ...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM TRAVELING WITH ANYONE
When was that?
—I think it was the first time I won a children's tournament in elementary school...

— In that case...

In that case, even back then



he was already...

SO THERE AREN'T TOO MANY.
BASICALLY THE ONLY PEOPLE PLAYING SOUYA
ARE PEOPLE THAT GO UP AGAINST HIM AS CHALLENGERS IN TITLE MATCHES
THOUGH,
YEAH
THE PEOPLE THAT GO UP AGAINST HIM IN MATCHES A LOT...
UM
DOES ANYONE ELSE...

WELL,
HE WASN'T PARTICULARLY TRYING TO HIDE IT,
BUT BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE SOME DRAWBACKS TO IT BEING PUBLIC, HE SAID TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT.
I JUST NEED TO FINISH MY GAMES BEFORE THE COUNTDOWNS BEGIN, RIGHT?
—IT SHOULDN'T REALLY BE A PROBLEM.
—THAT'S WHAT HE SAID DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?
YA KNOW,
HONESTLY,
I'M WORRIED
BUT HE'S PRETTY CAREFREE ABOUT IT.
WELL. HE'S ACTUALLY
BEEN THAT KIND OF PERSON GOING WAY BACK
EVEN IF HE SAYS TOTALLY OFF-THE-WALL THINGS.
PEOPLE JUST GO "WELL HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT."
SO HE CAN PASS HIMSELF OFF PRETTY WELL

PEOPLE OBSERVING HIM END UP INTERPRETING THAT AS 'WELL I GUESS THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW HE'S A GENIUS.'
AND HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GOING CRAZY LITTLE BY LITTLE.
AND THEY GOT REALLY INTO THAT WHOLE IDEA...
AS HE BECOME A DEMON AT SHOGI,
SO IRONICALLY,
ARE ALL PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS THE SAME IN BOTH ORDER AND CONTENT.
THE GREETINGS AND QUESTIONS BEFORE AND AFTER MATCHES
ALSO,
SO AT THIS POINT, I CAN LEAVE HIM ALONE AND HE'LL BE OKAY.
HE GENERALLY JUST SLEEPS TILL MORNING
ONCE HE GOES BACK TO HIS ROOM
THOUGH

SO YOU REALLY SAVED US BY PICKING HIM UP LIKE THAT.
THE BEST-OF-7 GYOKUSHOU CHAMPIONSHIP COMING UP NOT LONG AFTER THIS...
HE'S GOT
—I WAS NERVOUS HE'D BE WALKING AROUND IN THE RAIN LOOKING FOR A HOTEL
BUT HONESTLY, YOU WERE A BIG HELP
SFX ZAAAAA
...I'm 18.
That about you being born in the Heisei era is a joke, right?
Are you a caring mother deep down?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A KID FROM TODAY'S GENERATION?
YOU REALLY ARE SORTA GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE
—BUT KIRIYAMA,
I WAS THINKING BACK IN KYOTO,
That time with Shimada
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ABLE TO
CARRY OUT NORMAL COMMUNICATION WITH SOUYA
THAT WAS AN INTERESTING GAME
BY THE WAY,
.....

HE KIND OF
SMILED.
— The next morning
when I woke up, the typhoon had passed.
HUH?
UM... WHAT ABOUT THE BILL?
THE PAYMENT FOR YOUR STAY
WAS PAID BY THE MAN YOU CAME IN WITH, SOUYA-SAMA.
ガー
SFX: GAAH
And when I went outside

Sendai's sky

was a nonsensical blue that spread out forever

The storm yesterday

felt so far away

it seemed like it had been a dream...

It didn't feel real at all.

like something a child had painted.

Even though I was sure

that the two of us

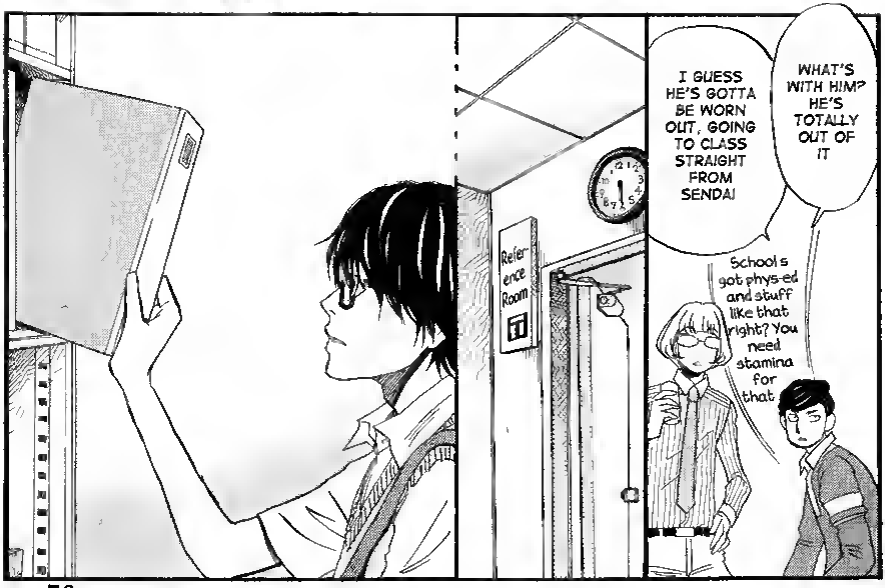
had walked together

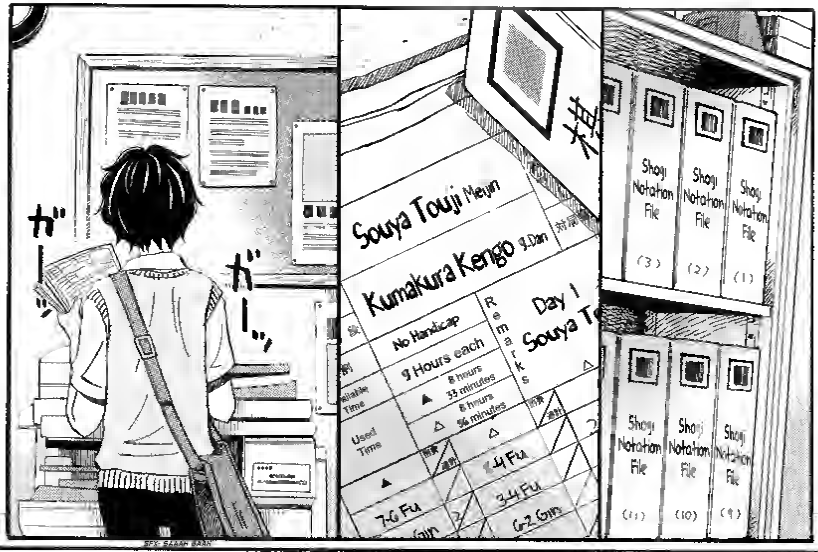
in the rain.

I was able to attend class,
Starting from about 3
but maybe because I was so exhausted
felt faintly distant
and the commotion in the classroom
the voice of the teacher
and they didn't really go into my head much...
But

those sounds of the pieces
I heard at that place
just wouldn't

SOUNDS LIKE THAT TYPHOON GAVE YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE.
AH, HEY, KIRIYAMA.
KIRIYAMA?
SFX GRAAH


Refer ence Room
I GUESS HE'S GOTTA BE WORN OUT, GOING TO CLASS STRAIGHT FROM SENDAI
WHAT'S WITH HIM? HE'S TOTALLY OUT OF IT
School's got phys-ed and stuff like that right? You need stamina for that



the ringing

just went on

and on.

Chapter 77 END

Chapter 78

Restart

T/N: KAKUNI IS A BRAISED PORK DISH

SFX: TOROORI (DRIP)

トローリ

SFX: TAPUUUUN CHAPUCHAPU (PLUNK PLUNK)

THAT I HAVE AT THE PERFECT THICKNESS USING THE KAKUNI SALTY-SWEET SAUCE.

AND I TOLD HIM WE HAVE SO MANY OF MY SPECIALTY SOFT-BOILED EGGS

たぷーん

THAT'S MADE WITH THE ULTIMATE SOFT-BOILED EGG!!

THAT ARE THE CULMINATION OF KATAMOTO FAMILY WISDOM THAT WAS FINALLY PERFECTED AFTER COUNTLESS FAILURES

AND WE EVEN TOLD HIM WE HAVE THESE NITAMAGO FULL OF FLAVOR

Yeah!

T/N: NITAMAGO IS EGG BOILED, PEELED, AND STEEPED IN SOY SAUCE MARINADE.

ARE ALWAYS AT A STABLE VISCOSITY WHEN THEY GET TO THE THE DINING TABLE?!!

SO THE SOFT-BOILED EGGS

9 Min

8 Min.

7 Min.

6 Min.

DOES HE HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH RESEARCH WE PUT INTO IT?

8 MINUTES, HUH?!

GOT IT!!

SO IT'S MEDIUM SIZED EGG--> OUT OF THE REFRIGERATOR--> BOILING IN WATER FOR 8 MINUTES!!

It's 8 minutes !!

8 minutes !!

I've got it, Onei-chan!!

*Flashback

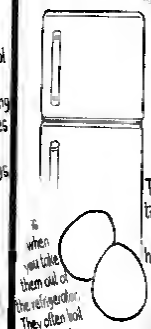
JYAGEEEH

GYAAA

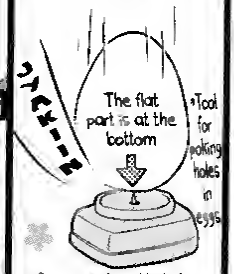
Attracted by people being excited

THE KAWAMOTO FAMILY SOFT-BOILED EGG ABSOLUTE SUCCESS MANUAL

1 Ready eggs straight out of the refrigerator.



2 Poke a small hole in the bottom of the egg.



*An egg is less likely to break in the pot when a hole is poked in it beforehand.

*This can be done with a thumbtack as well.

3 Boil in boiling water for 8 minutes.

*For the first two minutes, roll them around with chopsticks. (The yolk will come to the center!)

SFX: KORONKORON (ROLLING)

4 Place the eggs in water.

*You need to cool them or they will gradually harden.

SFX: ZAAAHH

Who would have though that the reason the hardness was all over the place was because we mixed up 'eggs that had gone back to room-temperature' and 'eggs that had just come out of the fridge'!

It took so long...

And that's how you can live the stable soft-boiled egg life any time!!

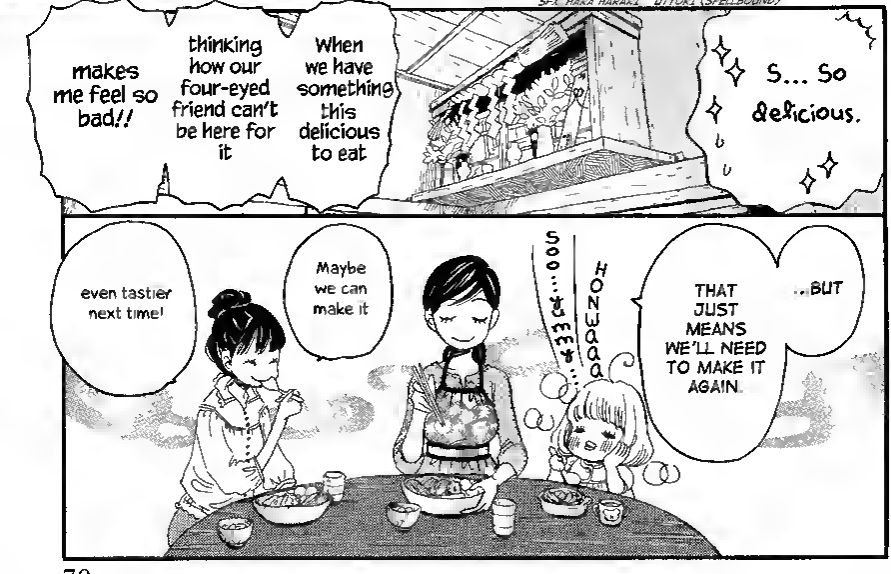
SFX: KUUUUH UU

IN THE LAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION LOTTERY!

NOW WE HAVE THIS NEW PRESSURE COOKER THAT WE WON

AND!!

TIME TO EAAAAAAAAT!
Pork ribs over rice is so goooooood!!
こってり とろ〜
100 GRAMS FOR ONLY 58 YEN!!
I BOUGHT 1 KILO FOR 580 YEN.
AND THESE PORK RIBS,
For just 580 yen, a family has all they can eat!!
SFX: KOTTERI (THICK) TOROTSUYA (SYRUPY AND SHINY) HOKA HOKA (HOT)
I never dreamed I could eat such syrupy kakuni in just 20 minutes!
Honestly, what was the point of all those gas bills, time, and labor that went into those long boils?!
*Currently tasting
うっとり
SFX: HARA HARARI UTTORI (SPELLBOUND)


S... So delicious.
When we have something this delicious to eat
thinking how our four-eyed friend can't be here for it
makes me feel so bad!!
...BUT
THAT JUST MEANS WE'LL NEED TO MAKE IT AGAIN.
HONwaaa
SOOO...
Maybe we can make it
even tastier next time!

I got a photo from Chiho-chan!
Ah!
That's right!!
It was of some super-cute puppies!
Oh?! Let me see, let me see!
They're Hana-chan's babies, I think!
They're all fluffy and soft looking!
There were 5 of them!! I'm really looking forward to meeting them!
...
YAMA
KIRIYAMA
KIRI-YAMAAA!
HEYYY!

Aftermath of the shock
y-you littllle...
K... Kiri-yamaaah
GOOD MORNING, SHIMADA-SAN
G... AH...
SFX GIRI GIRI (TEETH GRINDING) GYUUUUN
SFX GOOOOH
!!
WHAT ARE YOU, IN GRADE SCHOOL?! PLAYING A GAME WHILE YOU'RE WALKING AROUND?!
I'M CONFISCATING THAT DS!!
ER, THAT NOTATION SHEET!!
Ah.....
SFX BAHHH
Souya Toujyouhou

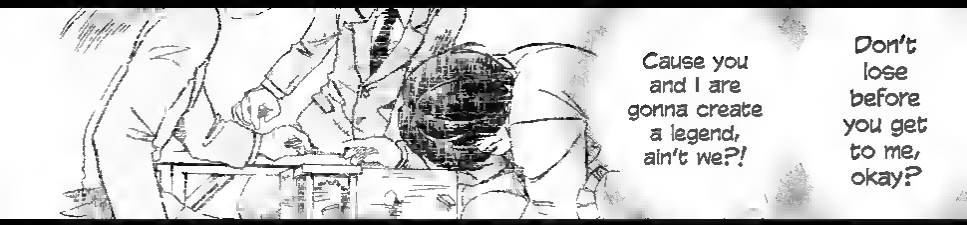
HAD FUN, DID YOU?
IN YOUR MATCH WITH SOUYA.
HUH?
YOU WANT TO MEET HIM AGAIN
IN FRONT OF A BOARD, RIGHT?

..I KNOW THE FEELING.
SFX: PASA
OH, RIGHT
NIKAIDOU WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL.
NIKAI-DOU..
YEAH HE'LL PROBABLY BE READY FOR THE GYOKUSHOU CHAMPIONSHIP'S 2ND QUALIFYING ROUND THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
...HUH?! SO NIKAIDOU'S HEALTH IS OKAY, THEN?!
UM, HE CAN GET BETTER THAT FAST
AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL?!
将棋会館

SO HE'S PROBABLY DEPRESSED NOW...
HE WAS PRETTY EXCITED BEFORE,
THIS IS HIS FIRST YEAR AFTER HAVING RISEN TO C1 IN THE RANK-DECIDING MATCHES,
BUT HE ALREADY HAS TWO BLACK MARKS FOR FORFEITING GAMES DUE TO ABSENCE...
WANT TO GO CHECK ON HIM?

A player plays 10 rank-deciding matches per year.

There are 34 people in our rank, C1.



Every year, the top 2 of those rise to the next class.

And at the ratio of 1 out of every 5 people, those that get the lowest results will get a rank-loss point.

If you get two of those rank-loss points, you go down a rank.

You've got to take care of your shogi
—Back then, those words allowed me to reclaim myself
and yourself more!
— He was so enthusiastic before...
I can only imagine how awful he feels...
NIKAIDOU
.....
SFX: SOOOH
HE SURE HAS BEEN A WHILE...
I WONDER IF NIKAIDOU'S HEALTH IS OKAY RIGHT NOW...?
HUH? WHAT'S UP, KIRIYAMA?
DON'T YOU HAVE A MATCH TODAY?
AH, YES.
I JUST STOPPED BY FOR... UM...

.....I LOST.
HAH
AWWW.
DAMMIT!
AGGHH!
GEEZ!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT HIM!
THIS LITTLE BRAT.
THAT WAS GREAT, NIKAIDOU !!
BEATING THAT BASTARD
AONO 8-DAN AT A TIME LIKE THIS!!
WHEN YOU WERE DOWN A MOVE AND PLAYED THAT KAKU EXCHANGE AND THE 7-9 KING!
THAT WAS A NOVELTY MOVE!

REALLY...? 7-9 GYOKU?!
GOD-DAMMIT!
WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT THIS THE WHOOOOLE TIME YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL?!
KAAH!
I SEE...
IF I'D PLAYED 7-9 GYOKU HERE
THEN THE HISHA COULDN'T HAVE KEPT GOING...
SFX: @ASHI @ASHI KUUUH
Thank you so much for what you did for me back then!!
HAHAHHH
AND THEN YOU GO AND PULL THIS OFF?!
I WAS SOOO DAMN WORRIED !!
AND THEN I WENT RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE FOR HANAOKA-SAN.
I CARRIED YOU AND PUT YOU TO SLEEP
BACK WHEN IT HAPPENED
I'll go find the old man, okay?!
You just wait here!
I'll go call an ambulance !
Are you okay, Nikaidou ?!
Really good person
SFX: SASU SASU (RUB RUB)
AND COME UP WITH SOMETHING TO CRUSH IT IN NO TIME!!
YEAH RIGHT, YOU LITTLE BASTARD! I'M GONNA RESEARCH IT AGAIN
Do I get my name attached to that move?!
—So, do I get it?!
Did you see that awesome play I just did?!
Did you see that ?!
Ah, Kiriyama!
GYAA GYAA GYAA GYAA
SFX: POKAAA

I'd been thinking about that foreeee ever!
And I finally got to try it out today!!
Rather than going with something normal like 7-8 Kin or 2-4 Fu,
if you go with 7-9 Gyoku, then it makes your attack way better!!
HE REALLY ADMIRES
THE IDEA OF HAVING A MOVE NAMED AFTER YOU!!
So, what do you think?
Ya think I'll get my name on it?
I think 'The Nikaidou Vaccine' sounds pretty good, you?!
PFF
— BECAUSE HE MIGHT BE DEPRESSED.
Huh ?
HUUUH ?!
What's so funny about that?!
えぇ!?
SFX HUUUUUH?!

AHAHA
HAHA
HAHA HAHHH!
What?!
What's so funny, Kiri-yamaa?!
AHAHAA...
Chapter 78 END

SHOGI PLAYERS DO BATTLE WHILE SEARCHING FOR NEW MOVES...

In the shogi world, when someone mentions novelty moves, the name of the great shogi player Masuda Kouzou-sensei and his motto 'New move, one lifetime' come to mind. In modern play, his name remains on the 'Masuda Award' players are sent when they play a good new move. But Masuda-sensei played surprisingly few novelty moves. It is undeniable fact that Masuda-sensei's conceptual ability in openings was incredible, but he did not play a large number of novelties. If one were to ask why, the answer is that he played in an age where information technology was not as advanced as today and the notations of pro players was not stored as data, so their circumstances prevented them from identifying a new move as such even if they played one.

Now a reporter can pull up that data with a single click, so when one plays a move that there are no other examples of, they can call a move a novelty immediately. But in exchange for that ease, there are more difficult-to-understand novelty moves. Now, going down in shogi history isn't so much about playing a new move as it is discovering a way of thinking that overflows with creativity.

For example, Fuji Takeshi 9-dan's 'Fuji System' changed the history of ranging hisha. His method of using the hisha in the central rank in taking side fu also gave birth to a completely new world on the board. Of course, he received the 'Masuda Award' for these two.

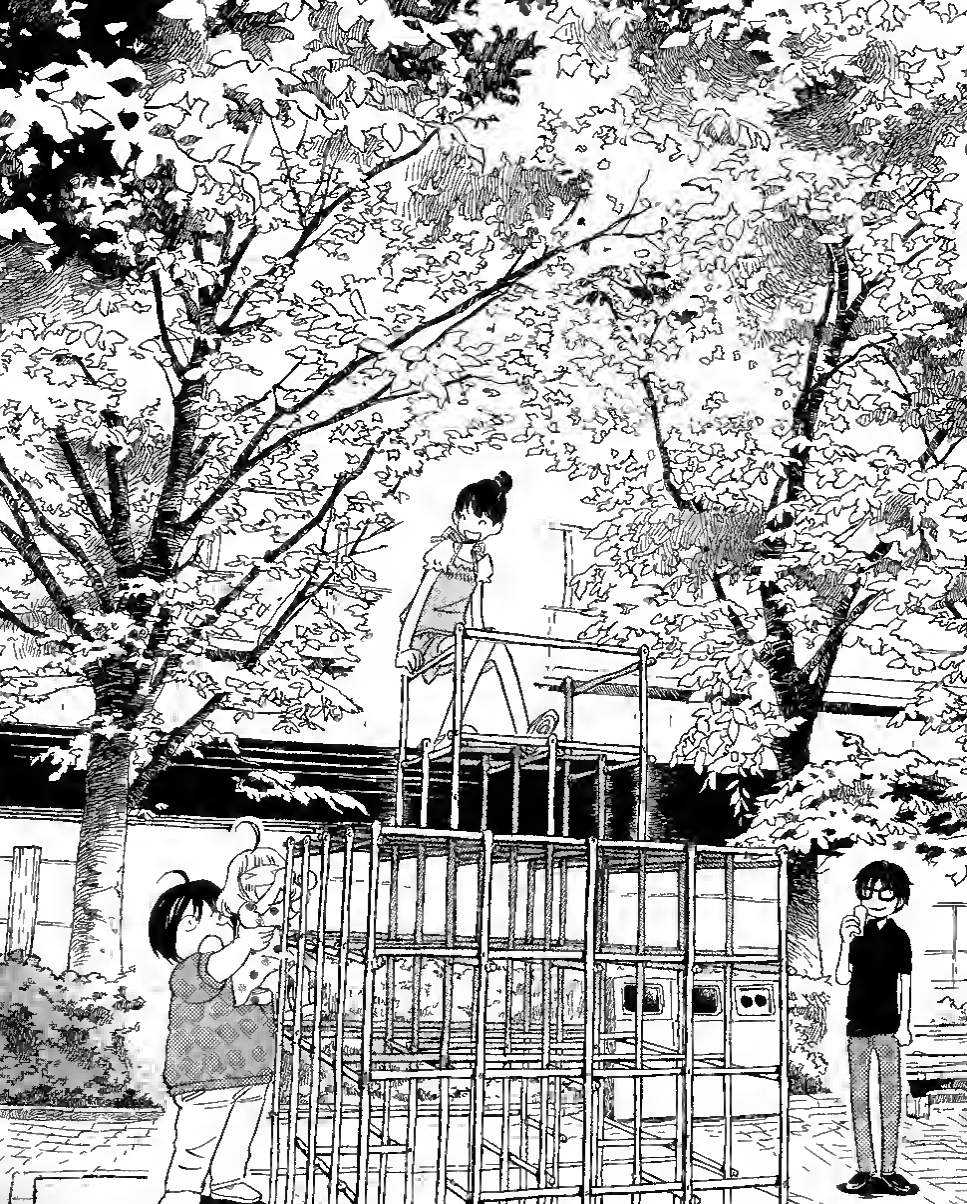
One is when one comes up with a new way of thinking, many new unexplored boards open up, so lots of novelty moves cropping up one after another is a matter of course. In other words, after a major novelty (a new idea), many novelties are created, so from a player's perspective the most important one is person that came up with the first move.

A few years ago there was a major talking point when Satou Yasumitsu-Oushou played a number of novelty moves regarding ranging hisha that were called outstanding. Everyone was quite surprised because he had very much been a static hisha type of player up to that point. Yasumitsu-Oushou received a 'Masuda Award' not for this move, but for the string of new moves made after.

As you might expect, if one plays a novelty move or comes up with a new idea, unless it's a very good move, there's no point to it. It's natural for everyone to imitate a great new move, but there are mountains of novelty moves that no one pays any attention to at all. This is one of the more severe aspects of being a pro.

There are two general types of players that play novelty moves. The first is the player that does detailed research into data to find a new formation. The other type is what one might consider the complete opposite of the first type, someone that barely pays any attention to data at all. They don't have the preconception that a new move comes from past data, but rather that free expression is something that leads to new moves.

By the way, the move that Nikaidou-kun played on page 86, '7-9 Gyoku' is a novelty move that Habu-san actually played in the NHK Cup. I was doing the commentary and I was impressed at the time, thinking it was a bit ingenious.



Chapter 79

Burnt Field ①

SFX: PICHU PICHU
ピチュピチュ
チョロチョロ
SFX: KAKOOON
カコーン…
UM...
ER...
THIS IS...
SORTA...

GRADUATION ALBUM PICTURES OF PEOPLE THAT SAT NEXT TO EACH OTHER...
IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE...
ARE THOSE ELLIPSE FRAMES REALLY A GOOD IDEA?
GIVES OFF A 'WE'LL ALWAYS BE WATCHING OVER YOU FROM HEAVEN' SORT OF VIBE...
WELL... IF I HAD TO PICK SOMETHING
I'D SAY THAT THIS POSTER...
Well, I tried.
HUHUHU AHAHAH...

All Sorts of Parties Planned
KISHOU CHAMPIONSHIP
IT SORT OF GOT
EVEN WORSE THAN LAST TIME
ER, SORTA...
Se-Yuugaien
Sesuragi Inn
Este Lunch Course Included
Ladies Plan Provided
The Eastern Shogi Prince Pair Present
Big Board Commentary
The Eastern Shogi Prince Pair...?
Why do we have a close-up?

YES!!
THAT'S FINE!! GOOD!!
MMM.
BETTER YET, LET'S PUT THE SICKLY GUY FRONT AND CENTER!!
IT WAS SUCH A DOWNER
THAT THE PRESIDENT FINALLY SNAPPED
将棋倶楽部

HE DID IT FOR FREE, BUT... I GUESS HE HAD A PRETTY TOUGH TIME...
WE ASKED NAKAMURA-KUN FROM GENERAL AFFAIRS AT THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION TO DESIGN IT, BUT...
IT'S HARD TO FINANCE THE KISHOU CHAMPIONSHIP
Weeeird...
I was in the PC Club at college, too
Design, it's really no easy task
Uhhh, I thought it would be easy, but...
Mouse

IT'LL LOOK LIKE 'HEY, IF ONE OF THEM COLLAPSES AT ANY TIME, WE'LL STILL BE OKAY'!!
AND WHY NOT?! LET'S HAVE A NURSE OR SOMEBODY ON STANDBY IN THE NEXT ROOM!
LEAVE THAT FOR NOW, HOW ABOUT WITH THE CAMERA
Live Broadcast
Heart Rate 54 Beats/Min
Remaining Time 07:42
ALONG WITH THE REMAINING TIME, WE PUT AN ELECTRO-CARDIOGRAM AND A HEART RATE DIAGRAM?!!
HA
HA
HA
HA...
SPX. KONO SONO
Do you know how tight we are right now?!
We've got five newspapers co-sponsoring this, but they're all tiny, local papers and the budget is getting slashed.
The Kishou Championship is my life!!
but this is one of the historic 7 Major Titles, you know?!
Sure, it may be kind of small-scale,
Toku-chan!! Give us a break!!
DITCH
Announcement Related
Leverage Suggestions
Severe Budget
Plan
Could you please stop making fun of us like that?!!

A 5-MINUTE WALK FROM TOKYO JR SENDAGAYA STATION
Meijin Championship
WILL HAVE TO HAVE ALL THE GAMES HERE AT THE SHOGI ASSOCIA-TIOOOON!!
EVEN AT THE BEST OF TIMES, SINCE IT HAPPENS AT ALMOST THE SAME TIME AS THE MEIJIN CHAMPIONSHIP,
BUSINESS IS STILL SLOW!!
HUNK?
KYAAAAAA AHHH!!!
THE KISHOU CHAMP-IONSHIP...
THEN STARTING NEXT YEAR
—IF INTEREST AND CROWD GO ANY LOWER
SFX: KUWAHH
—AND SO...
GOOD LUCK. ☆
WHETHER NEXT YEAR'S KISHOU CHAMPIONSHIP ENDS UP AS 'ENTIRELY IN THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION BUILDING' OR NOT
IS ALL UP TO YOU GUYS! ♡
SO DON'T HOLD BACK BOYS,
MAKE SURE YOU GET THEM REALLY HYPED, WOULD YOU?
HA HA HAH HA HA
HUGE RESPONSIBILITY
ゴクリ....
SFX: GULPPP

*These two have been put in charge of the b g board commentary

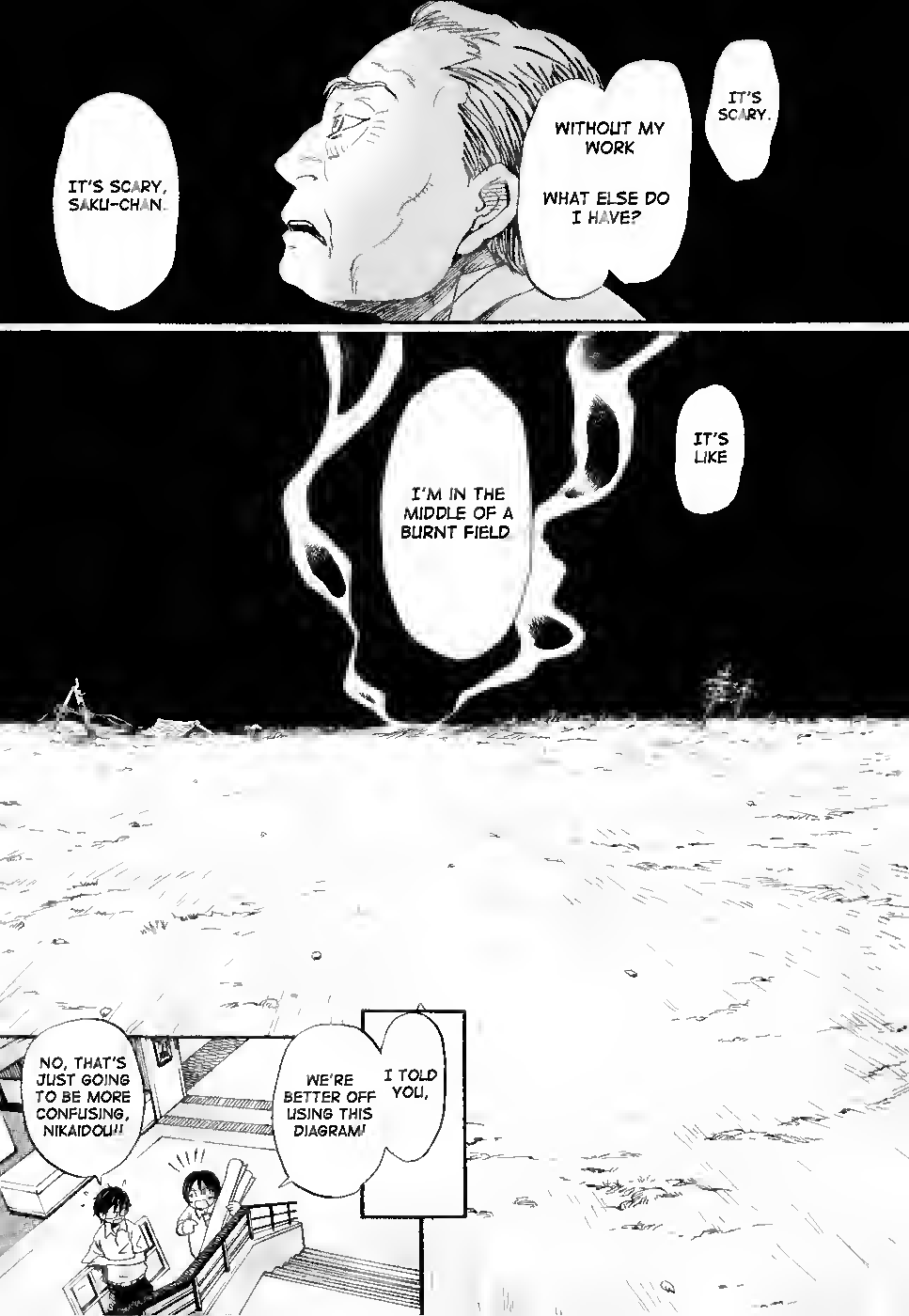
NO.
——BUT I AM GLAD YOU GUYS ARE COMING OUT FOR IT.
SERIOUSLY.
HUH?
WHY IS THAT ANIJYA?
Why are you getting serious all of a sudden?
OF COURSE WE'RE GONNA GIVE IT OUR ALL!
It'll be a great big-board commentary
——YOU'LL SEE...
HA
HA
HA
HA
You been doing all right?!
KAN-CHAN!! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
HEY THEEERE!

うぇーい
CHEEERS!!
HEEERE GOES!!
OKAY, HERE'S OUR THIRD PRE-TOAST!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, YANAGIHARA KISHOU!!
FINE, SAKU-CHAN!!
KAKU-CHAN!! YASU-CHAN!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!! HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!!
どーん
わぁわぁ
わぁわぁ
なみ
なみ
SFX UEEI DOON WAA WAA WAA WAA NAMI NAMI
……
WHAT'S WH ALL THIS?
ピー
パチパチ…
No PROBLEM, SAKU-CHAN!!
THANK YOU EVERY-ONE!!
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO SEE YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR!!
SFX PACHI PACHI PACHI (CLAP CLAP CLAP) PIIIIH
THE CHALLENGER IN THE KISHOU CHAMPIONSHIP GETS STUCK WITH HAVING TO OVERCOME THIS AWESOME 'AWAY GAME' FEELING
MOST OF THE REPORTERS AND STAFF ARE LIKE FAMILY TO YANAGIHARA-SAN
FORMIDABLE 'HOME FEEL'
THE KISHOU CHAMPION SHIP'S
THIS IS WHAT MAKES THIS WHOLE THING UNIQUE...
HA HA HA HA
Ohh, Sawku-chan. I really missed yooou!
I missed you too!!
O:! What's gotten into you, you old coot?!
ガシーッ
SFX WASHIIH (SQUEEZE)
パチパチ
SFX WAA WAA (PACHI PACHI PACHI (CLAP CLAP CLAP))

NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, THERE'S THE VOICE OF ONE GROUP...
OF COURSE, THEY ALSO DO SO DURING ON THEIR WAY THERE AND BACK
OR GO EAT SOMEWHERE AND IT ALWAYS HAS THIS ATMOSPHERE.
THEY'LL GO TO BATHS, GO TO A SALON TO DRINK COFFEE
AT THIS POINT
EVEN IF IT'S DURING THE TITLE MATCH
TRULY A MONSTER
HE HAS HELD TITLES FOR A TOTAL OF 14 PERIODS
HE'S AN A-CLASS PLAYER STILL ACTIVE AT AGE 66
YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT, HE'S GOOD
IT'S THE ONE OF THE MOST CUNNING THING ABOUT THAT OLD MAN.
HE MAKES THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE POINT TOWARDS HIM
I WANT MY FIRST TITLE!!
I REALLY WANT IT... NO MATTER WHERE I NEED TO SINK MY FANGS INTO...
BUT IN THIS 5-GAME KISHOU CHAMPIONSHIP
I'VE MANAGED TO CHASE HIM DOWN TO A SCORE OF 2-2.
HE'S MORE LIKE THE LEVEL OF A SPECTER.
AT THIS POINT
NO, ACT-UALLY
—AN EXTRA-LARGE ONE

BUT I'M ENDING IT
I FEEL SORRY ABOUT THE OLD MAN'S REUNION,
—AND
I'M TAKING THAT TITLE. YOU CAN COUNT ON IT.
HEY, WHERE'S GAN-CHAN?
OH,
YEAH...
GAN-CHAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE COMING, BUT...
? WHAT'S WRONG? IS HE FEELING SICK?
HE'S NOT HERE.
...
HM?
HEY, SAKU-CHAN.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE NIGHT-BEFORE PARTY IS GOING ON NOW, ISN'T IT?

I DIDN'T WANT TO RAIN ON YOUR ON YOUR PARADE
IN THE DAYS RIGHT BEFORE YOUR BIG TITLE MATCH WITH BAD NEWS LIKE THAT..
SORRY... SAKU-CHAN.
WELL, TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT,
THERE WAS RESTRUCT-URING
チョロ チョロ
SFX: CHORO CHORO
—I RECEIVED AN UNOFFICIAL REQUEST THAT I RETIRE EARLIER
AND AT THE END OF MAY, I LEFT THE COMPANY..
—BUT, SAKU-CHAN, WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW YOU'RE STILL FIGHTING... I JUST CAN'T SIT STILL..
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY AND USE YOUR LIFE TO HAVE FUN?
GAN-CHAN,
—YOU'VE WORKED WAY MORE THAN HARD ENOUGH...
YOU'VE SPENT ALL THIS TIME CARRYING A HUGE CAMERA DAY AND NIGHT
—MY WIFE SAID THE SAME THING
MY DAUGHTER, TOO..
BUT


IT'S SCARY, SAKU-CHAN.
WITHOUT MY WORK
WHAT ELSE DO I HAVE?
IT'S SCARY.
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A BURNT FIELD
IT'S LIKE
NO, THAT'S JUST GOING TO BE MORE CONFUSING, NIKAIDOU!!
WE'RE BETTER OFF USING THIS DIAGRAM!
I TOLD YOU,

SFX: GOU GOU KEN KEN

EXPLAINING IT BY PICTURES WILL GET A MUCH BETTER RECEPTION!!
THEY TOLD US TO GET THEM HYPED DIDN'T THEY KIRIYAMA?!
I'M TELLING YOU, ACTUALLY LINING IT ALL UP AND EXPLAINING IS BETTER!!

WHERE DO WE PUT UP THE MATING-SHOGI PUZZLES?
HEY, SAKU-CHAN,
BUT NOW I'M THE ONE LEADING IT
MAN, THAT TAKES ME BACK. I WAS IN THE KID'S SHISHI-OU CHAMPIONSHIP TOO
WHEN THE KIDS GET BORED, PUT THEM UP IN THE FRONT.

'WE'LL ALWAYS...'
'SAKU-CHAN, PLEASE..'
'YOU NEED TO KEEP GOING FOR US TOO..'
'SAKU-CHAN, I HATE TO SAY IT,'
'BUT I'M GONNA LOOK FOR A DIFFERENT PATH...'
'I'M RETIRING I DECIDED I'M GONNA FOCUS ON TEACHING KIDS..'
SAKU-CHAN, THEY JUST CONFIRMED I'M GOING DOWN A RANK '
'MY DAD COLLAPSED I'M GOING BACK TO THE COUNTRY..'
'ALWAYS BE CHEERING YOU ON...'

I wonder how long now I've been the oldest one there wherever I go?

HE'S INTENDING ON HOLDING OUT?
JUST HOW LONG DO YOU THINK
HE'S A MONSTER, HE'S 66 ISN'T HE?
YANAGIHARA -SAN SURE IS SOME-THING...
HOW IS HE STILL IN A-CLASS?

The comrades I fought with just started disappearing

one by one...

And then all that was left
was this old body
and this enormous number of tasuki

YEAH...
that were entrusted to me...
—IT REALLY IS HEAVY
清流園
Chapter 79 END

THE SECRET TO THE GROWING NUMBER OF OLD PLAYERS STILL FULL OF PEP...

At the present moment (December 2012) the oldest active player is Naitou Kuno 9-dan at age 73 and the 2nd is Katou Hifumi 9-dan at 72 years. These two have been among the top 3 ranked players for the last 6 or 7 years.

With the current society living with such longevity these two have some scruples with being called senior shogi players but honestly, with shogi being a game of the mind, there aren't many players active at this age. As most players tend to win less with age, most retire at some point.

Also, Naitou 9-dan and Katou 9-dan are of course exceptions for being excellent shogi players that are still actively pushing themselves. They even fight hard in the battles of stamina that are tank-deciding games with 6 hours of available time. Of course their win rates aren't as good as they were in their heyday, but they frequently dominate other players that are younger than their own children; no-one respects their perseverance and endurance more than their fellow pro shogi players.

The special characteristics of these top-age players is such that they have their own world – they have the idea that in their world, if things are in this form, they're sure they can win. Naitou 9-dan has a unique sense for mutual-attack strategies that makes even top players moan, Naitou 9-dan has a Yaguta strategy and a Rising Gin strategy for use against Ranging Hisha with excellent technical proficiency - they have the so-called veteran flavor to them so when these strategies work well, young players submit. In the industry they say if these players get the game into one of their good lines, they're strong.

One could say that after these two, the next are Mori Keiji 9-dan, Tanaka Kaishuu 9-dan, and Kiriyama Kiyozumi 9-dan (All around 65 years old). Mori 9-dan is extra sharp in his end-games, Tanaka 9-dan has magnificent lines in the mid-game and Kiriyama 9-dan has an ever-changing, inimitable style of play that is sometimes subdued and sometimes extreme. These five were all active when I was training in the Shoureikai and are all people I admire unconditionally.

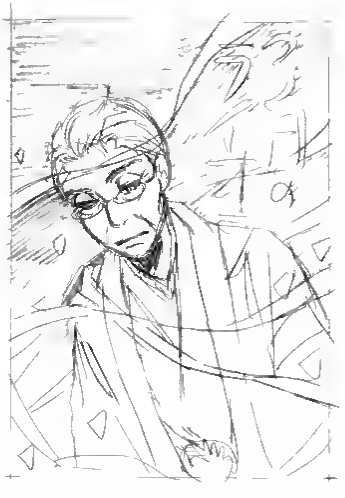
In Lion, there is a player called Yanagihara-san that is 66 years old in A-class and has the title of Kishou, I think the model for him is the late Ooyama the 15th Meijin - a great player that's representative of the Shouwa Era. Ooyama-sensei was active until his death at age 69 and was an A-class player, there are truly no words for someone that can go that far - he was truly a monster.

Ooyama-sensei publicly declared that he would retire if he ever dropped from A-class, so whenever it seemed like he might go down in rank there would be a lot of commotion for the whole shogi world and all his fans.

I wonder what senior players there will be in the future? Will the generation I'm in, the ones born around 1970 and the so-called Habu Generation, end up retiring or sticking around to bully younger players...? Yes, I wonder.

Chapter 80

Burnt Field ②

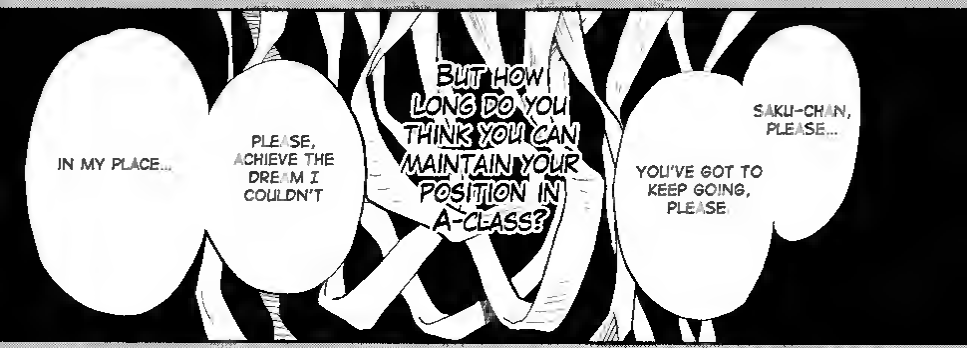


3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

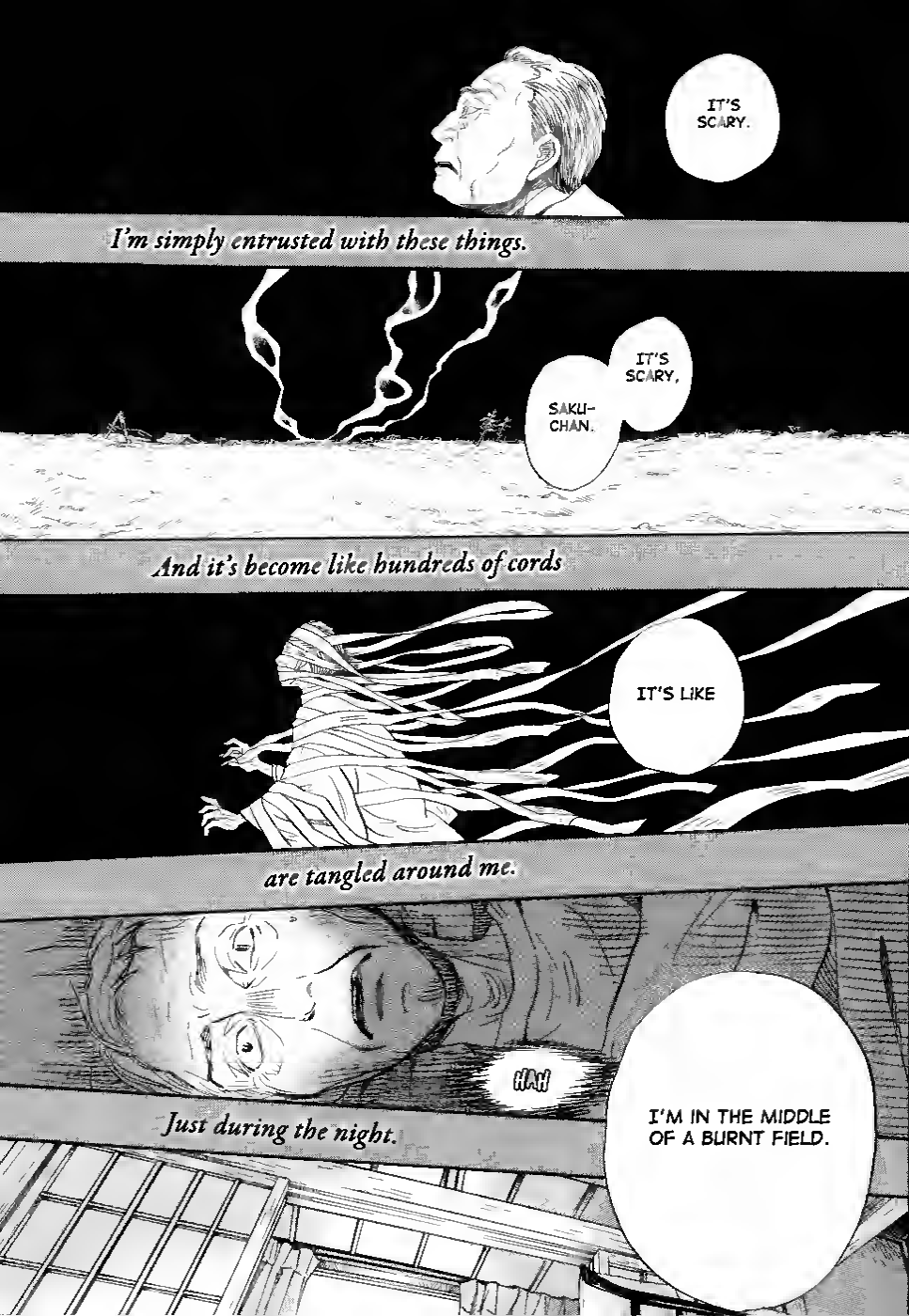
I know.

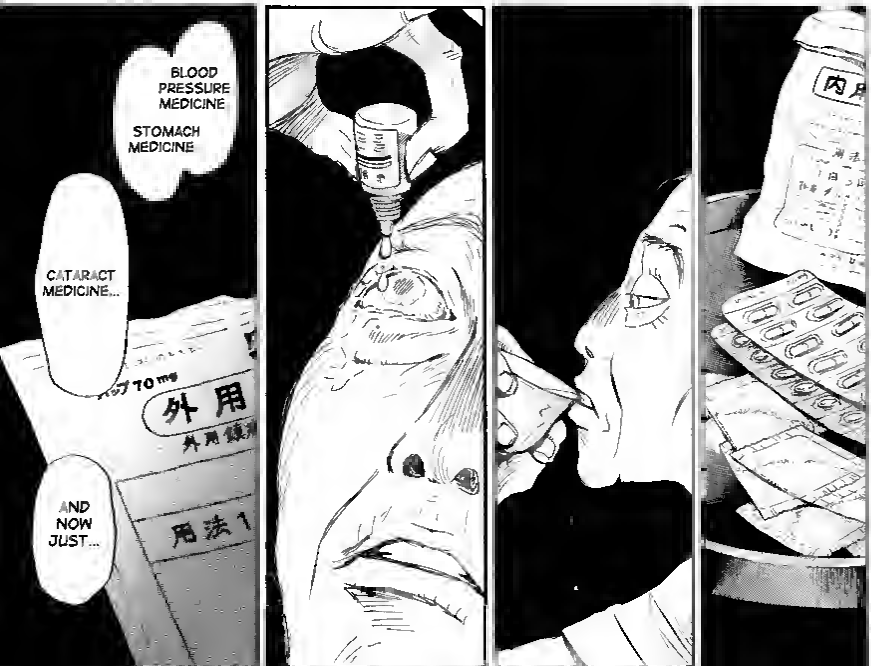
I know!


IN MY PLACE...
PLEASE, ACHIEVE THE DREAM I COULDN'T
BUT HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION IN A-CLASS?
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING, PLEASE
SAKU-CHAN, PLEASE...

I know that the ones saying those things

don't feel like they're casting a curse on a person.


IT'S SCARY.
I'm simply entrusted with these things.
IT'S SCARY, SAKU-CHAN.
And it's become like hundreds of cords
IT'S LIKE
are tangled around me.
HAH
Just during the night.
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A BURNT FIELD.


BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICINE
STOMACH MEDICINE
CATARACT MEDICINE...
外用
AND NOW JUST...

OKAY THEN..
.....
YOU CAN BET THEY'LL STOP WORKING AS SOON AS I GET TO THE GOOD PARTS...
WELL, EVEN IF I STICK THESE ON NOW,
...ACCCH!
GUESS IT'S TIME
TO GET GOING...

OKAY,
THE ELDEST CLASS-A PLAYER WITH HIS ETERNAL TITLE ON THE LINE, YANAGIHARA KISHOU
AND THE CONSTANT HARD-WORKER SHIMADA 8-DAN LOOKING TO WIN HIS FIRST TITLE
WHICH ONE WILL WIN...?
清流園
WHOEVER WINS
SHH
QUIET DOWN
IT'LL HAVE A LUKEWARM HEADLINE
Haha..
SHIMADA 8-DAN IS COMING IN.
GOOD LUCK, KAI

—I want to protect them.
...No matter what it takes.
—No matter what happens!!
9 AM
—WELL EVERYONE, IT IS NOW TIME TO BEGIN
WOULD SENTE, YANAGIHARA KISHOU PLEASE GO AHEAD
LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME
SENTE YANAGI-HARA KISHOU
7-6 FU
—GOTE SHIMADA 8-DAN
8-4 FU

HUH?!
An edge Fu...
1-6 FU?!
SFX PASHIH
YANAGIHARA KISHOU
1-6 FU
— And on move 3
SFX PASHIH
HE'S JUST GONNA KEEP ON
ADVANCING ON THE EDGE?!
SFX SUHH
THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING THAT GET TO ME
—BUT STILL
WHAT'S HE UP TO?

Is he saying he's giving up 2 moves so go exchange the kakus?
You want me to trade kakus in exchange for being up a move?
This damn spectre...
WOAH. I'VE SEEN THIS STRATEGY BEFORE! IN A MANGA!!
1-5 FU?!
HE'S PUSHING EVEN FURTHER!
So cool!
OOOHHH
A manga?
What manga?
I'll gladly accept being up two moves on you,
but I will not let you have the initiative!!
—But,
I refuse!
パシ
SFX: PASHI

a formation that was hard to put any name on began.

with the push on the first file and the kaku exchange 4th file hisha

This battle,

—Sente

2-2 Kaku Promotion...

Kishou Championship Game 5

I THINK

HE HAD HEAVILY RESEARCHED EVERYTHING HE DID UP TO THAT POINT

HE EXCHANGED THE 8-6 FU AND THE HISHA IN ALMOST NO TIME

AGAINST SHIMADA-SAN'S 3-5 FU

—NO,

—DO YOU THINK THAT'S WHERE HIS CONFIDENCE LIES?

'WHO CARES ABOUT THE OPENING.'

'IF I CAN BRING THIS INTO A POWER BATTLE, I'LL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.'

YANAGIHARA KISHOU

SEEMS TO BE INVITING HIS OPPONENT TO A BATTLE OF BRUTE STRENGTH.

第5局
—AND THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING THIS FORMATION
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT
These two who both had mountains of skills and experience...
They both persisted.

the balance of the situation
was constantly fluctuating...
—As the match approached the endgame
Shimada-san stubbornly fought back
against Yanagihara Kishou's research.
—And then
in the evening
SFX SUH

THIS MOVE PUTS HIM AT A HUGE ADVANTAGE!!
SHIMADA 8-DAN FOR YOU
AAH... YES, THAT'S
5-8 KIN—— IT'S 5-8 KIN.
HE'S MADE A MOVE
バチッ
SFX: BACHIH
……
Yanagihara Kishou.
Kishou—

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE UP-AND-COMING YOUNG PLAYERS?
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED RETIRING IF YOU GO DOWN IN CLASS?
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION IN A-CLASS?
IT'S SCARY... SAKU-CHAN...
WITHOUT MY WORK
WHAT ELSE DO I HAVE?
IT'S SCARY

So, shall we get going?

But if where you're standing is a burnt field,
then where I'm standing is still in the middle of burning.

even 'losing' are never
'winning'——and
thing that can be decided all that easily.

So today I'll be a fireball again
and suffer to my heart's content.
パシャッ
Chapter 80 END

HOW DOES RETIREMENT WORK IN THE SHOGI WORLD?

Because shogi is a trade where you use your mind, it has the unique quality of having players active much longer than those in physical sports. And as I wrote in column 3 there are many players that stay active for a very long time,
though as you might expect, those players make up only a portion of all players - most retire after a certain point. Games and matches are very exhausting, so one needs to give it up at some point.

There are two ways people retire: one is to quit voluntarily - of course, each person is free to retire from active play whenever they so choose - the other way is to systematically retire. To put it simply, when a player gets to a certain age and can't win anymore they have to retire. It's a harsh part of reality but in the world of matches, you could say there's no way around it. The overwhelming majority tend to go this way.

Without getting into the specifics, if you gain 3 demotion points in the lowest ranked class, C-Class Group 2, you retire 10 years after that. If you are over 60 years old, you retire even before 10 years pass. There is a free-class system where one does not play rank-deciding matches. When you are there and reach age 65, or else are there for 15 years, you retire.
If you do not lose rank in the rank-deciding battles, you can keep playing however long you keep it up. There is no upper limit. The income received per class for each rank-deciding match has had smaller differences as of late, but since retirements are involved with them you could say that these are weighty matches to shogi players.

In extreme cases, even if a new 4-dan has a formal debut, because they start in C-Class Group 2, if they gain demotion-points in three consecutive years, they can be forced to retire in 13 years (but if they can gain the regulation win ratio in that period, they can return to C-Class Group 2).

Now we're getting into a more personal story but I didn't think about retiring at all until around age 35 (I didn't even know about the regulations I wrote about earlier). But now that I'm 42 I'm thinking a bit about the future. I wonder how long I'll be able to play shogi. The idea of immersing myself in matches for my whole life does have some sense of accomplishment to it but at the same time, it feels a bit empty to me. No matter how old you get, losing matches is tough... And then from the age perspective, it's a shogi player's destiny to eventually not be able to win. But well, that's still a long ways off so I'll just keep doing my best for now.

By the way, even after shogi players retire the fact that they are staff at the Japan Shogi Association does not change. Their duties just spread to things outside of playing matches. Once a shogi player, always a shogi player.

Chapter 81

Burnt Field ③

!!
1-2 Gin...?!
カ!!
WE WERE WRONG...
WHAT YANAGIHARA-SAN IS LOOKING AT IS PAST THAT...
I GET IT.
.....
HE'S NOT WITHDRAWING THE KAKU?
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT THE KAKU?

He's good...
This guy's the oldest active player?
You're kidding, right?
How the hell is he this damn good?
If he drops there, there's just
no way to defend!!
2-5 KOU!!
What do I do here?

SFX: PASHIIH
SFX: SU
SFX: TANN
THERE IT IS!
A 2-5 KOU!!
2-5 KOU!!
WHAT'S ANIJYA GONNA DO?!
——What...?
AMEN...
SFX: KAHH

1-4 KAKU!!
Kushou Championship Game 5
NO, ACTUALLY
THAT MOVE...
BUT NOW...
HE DEFENDED WITH THE KAKU HE JUST CAPTURED?!
SFX: ZAWA ZAWA (MATTER)
really was good?
——No, actually
the only thing he had to defend the 2-3 point was this kaku exchange!!
He dropped the kaku without
However
it was a good decision.

It's just like you said.
He duly,
——THAT'S RIGHT, GOTOU.
YOU CAN JUST LEAVE SHIMADA ALONE. HE'LL START WINNING AGAIN ON HIS OWN.
soberly,
and came back one layer thicker.
unflaggingly built himself up.
—That's how he is.
He's a zelkova tree.
He can only grow larger at a slow rate, and in exchange
to grow into a huge, hard tree.
he endures wind and rain

I dunno.
—Yeah.
What do I resemble?
Then what am I?
There are no predecessors left to compare me to.

..My hips hurt.

And my eyes are going hazy.

Oh no, my mind is drifting off in the middle of a game...

——Huh?

Goddamit.

'Senile pneumonia' ...

——That first game, now that was awful.

——Wait, no I'm feeling much better than usual.

You don't need to make that face -

you're still ahead.

Oh, uh-oh, he's glaring at me.

Now that's scary...

I thought I was gonna die.

That was pretty good, winning with that.

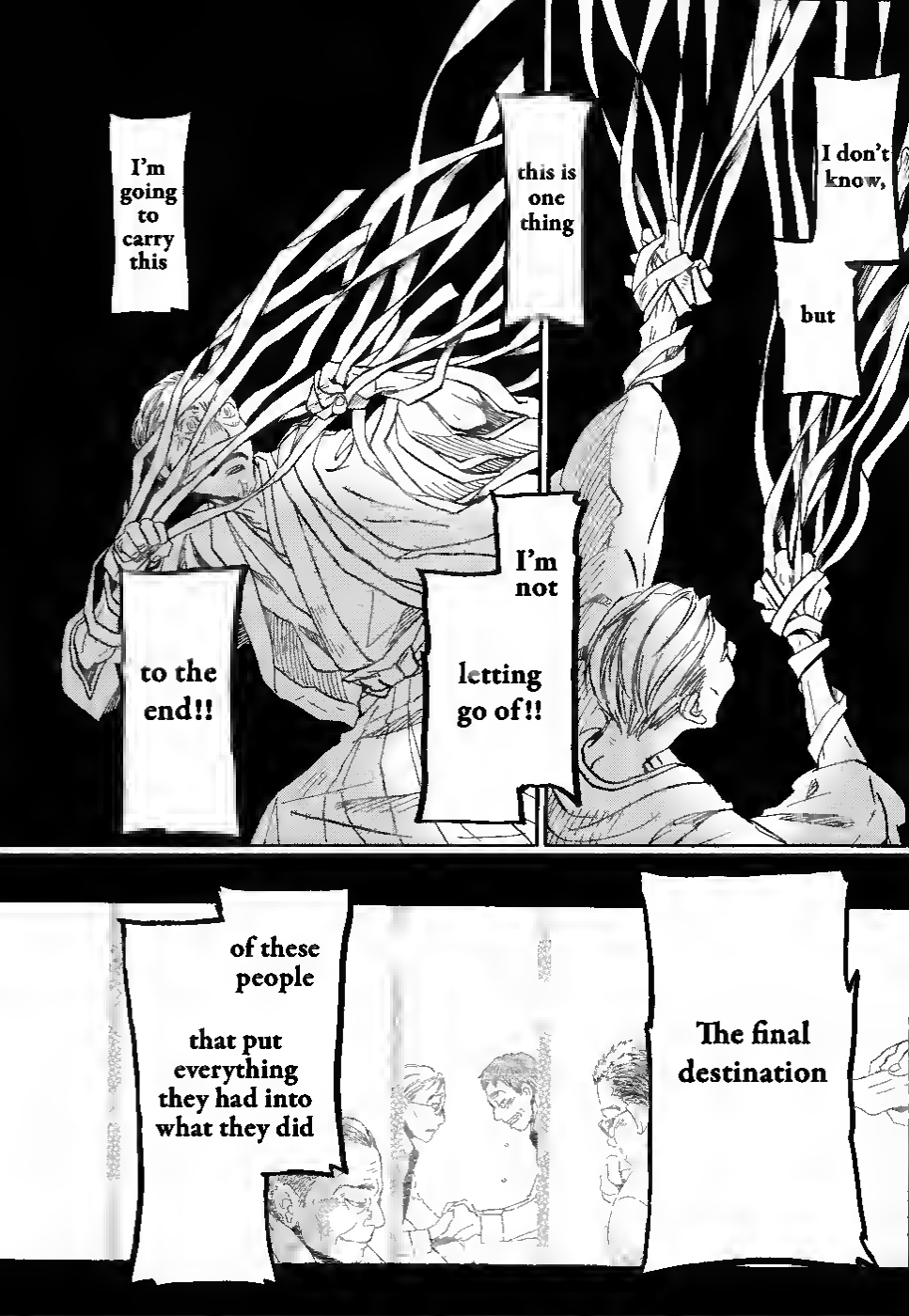
Fuuu...

You're...

——That's right. I'm losing, aren't I?
——I've been thinking about it forever.
If I had shogi taken from me,
what do I have left.....?

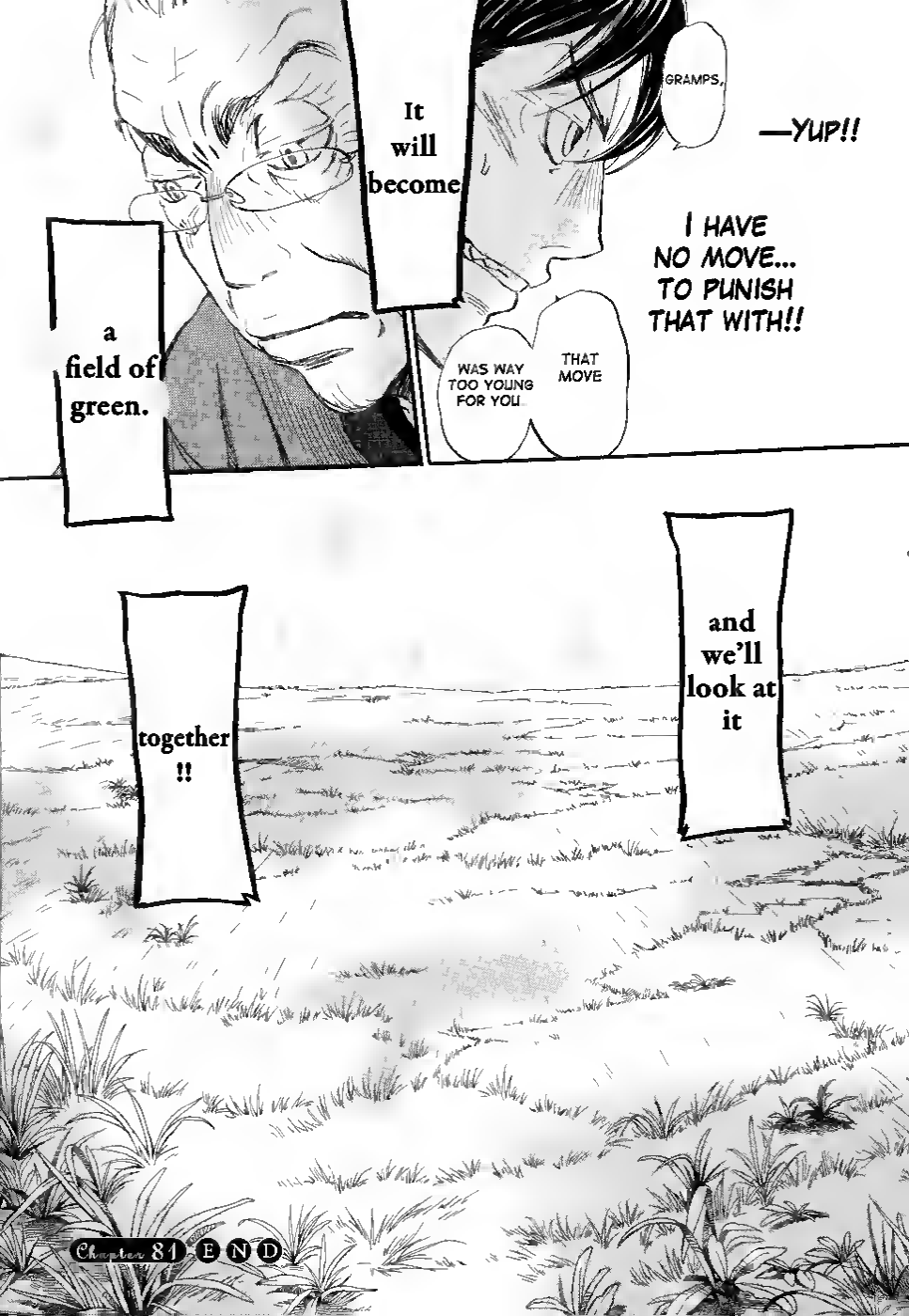
Kishou Championship Game 5
FROM THAT 2-5 KOU, YANAGIHARA KISHOU'S ATTACK
HAS BEEN OVERTURNED BY SHIMADA KAI 8-DAN'S DEFENSE
WHO HAS NOW TAKEN THE ADVANTAGE
WILL HE FINALLY GET HIS LONG SOUGHT-AFTER FIRST TITLE?!
—WITH ALL THE PRESSURE SHIMADA 8-DAN HAS PUT ON HIM,
IS YANAGIHARA KISHOU SHOWING GREATER SIGNS OF STRAIN?
IT FEELS AS THOUGH HE IS FIGHTING A TOUGH BATTLE AND IS UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE
YANA-GIHARA KISHOU
WITH THE TITLE OF 'ETERNAL KISHOU', REQUIRING A TOTAL OF 10 WINS
JUST ONE STEP AWAY...
WILL HIS HAND..
JUST NOT REACH?
SAKU-CHAN...
...IS THIS THE END?
HE...
HE JUST NEEDS ONE MORE WIN...
.....NO.
SAKU-CHAN DID WELL..
ACTUALLY
HE DID GREAT TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.
'—I'm retiring.'
'Saku-chan, they've decided I'm going down in rank.'
'It's hard to accept, but I'm going to look for another path.'
'Saku-chan, I just... I can't do it anymore...'
'I felt this was the best time to do it.'
'Saku-chan, I decided I'm going back to the country.'

—It's like
I'm standing in the middle of a burnt field...
IT'S SCARY, SAKU-CHAN.
IT'S SCARY.
—NO!!


I'm going to carry this
this is one thing
I don't know,
but
I'm not letting go of!!
to the end!!
The final destination
that put everything they had into what they did
of these people

Is not some
Goddamn Burnt Field!!
SFX KANNN
HE'S RAISING HIS GYOKU?!
1-7 GYOKU?!

HUUUUH!!!
1-6 GYOKU?!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT! 1-6 GYOKU, HERE?!!
Climbing Gyoku?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SFX: KAKU
銀将
王将
Given enough time
H... HE-
HAD THAT MOVE?!
AAAH!! BUT!!
a burnt field
will grow grass again, whether you want it to or not.
SAKU-CHAN,
HANG IN THERE!
SAKU-CHAN
SAKU-CHAN


GRAMPS,
—YUP!!
I HAVE NO MOVE... TO PUNISH THAT WITH!!
THAT MOVE WAS WAY TOO YOUNG FOR YOU
It will become
a field of green.
and we'll look at it
together !!
Chapter 81 END

BREATHTAKING SUPER-HEATED BATTLES... WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?!

Shogi is a living thing. You never know what'll happen if you don't try. And very frequently, a game where both players start off full of fighting spirit can end quickly with one side overwhelming the other.

Of course, the opposite also happens. When both sides use every trick at their disposal to turn it into a a super-heated battle. Those moments when either side could gain victory if the other leaves an opening, those super-heated battles when they both keep their balance and the battle rages on long-term are one of the big thrills of shogi and can be emotionally moving even for other pros. And fans are well aware that there's nothing as entertaining as endgames going on endlessly with time countdowns being read.

However, and I hate to put a damper on things like this, but super-heated battles do not necessarily make for great matches. Sometimes both sides being balanced means both sides are making bad moves. And these cases are overwhelmingly more common. That's just how it is.

But even knowing this, super-heated battles really make some sort of impression, don't they? Even including the mistakes, it's in the raw clash of two human beings. It's because you can feel the souls of the players in each and every move.

The 5th and final match of the Kishou Championship in Lion, the match between Yanagihara Kishou and Shimada 8-dan, was truly one of those matches where you could really see two souls clashing right on top of the board.

Such a match was the finals of the JT Cup Japan Series of Satou Yasumitsu-san and Gouda Masataka-san. This match played in the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium was open to the public and, this may not be the right word for it, but it was a heated match akin to slinging mud at one another. So much so that I forgot the work I was doing and went to watch it.

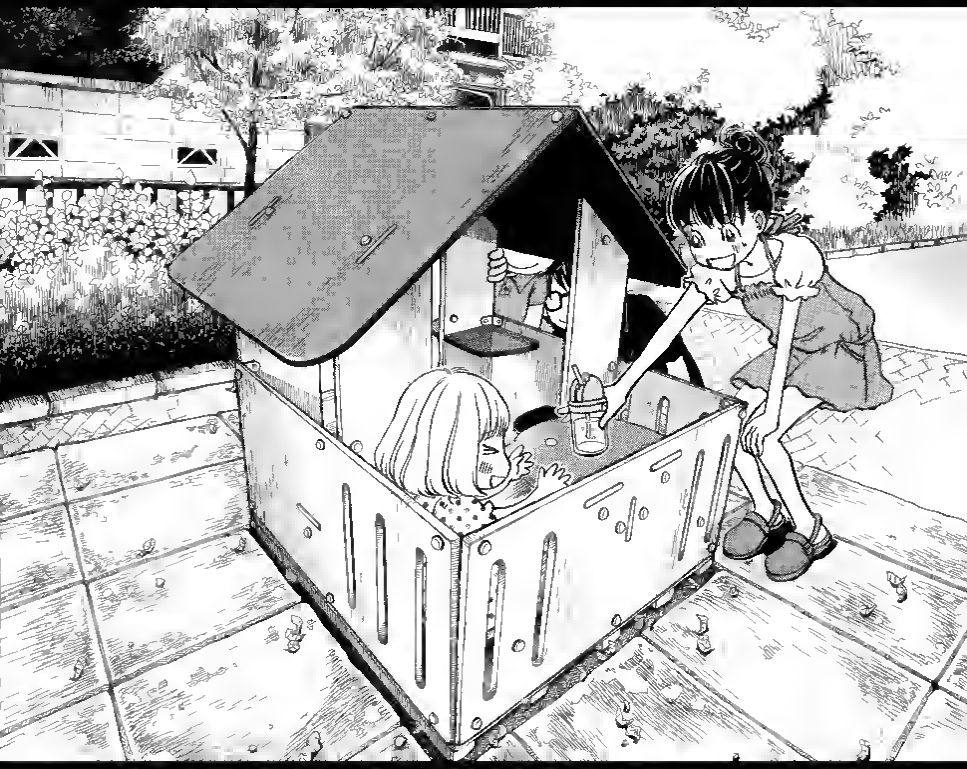
The Japan Series is a series of speed matches, but if this match was a rank deciding match with 6 hours of available time, it would probably have gone to 2 in the morning. Because this one game of shogi ended up being a full 16 hours in length.

While 2 AM is rare, matches that go past 1AM happen year round. And in shogi, there is the special situation where the game is declared a tie due to repetition. And this results in the dreaded restart from the first move. Consequently, these matches always go late. Previously, the longest game was between Nakagawa Daisuke-san and Namekata Hisashi-san where they tied twice and the game ended at 9AM the next morning. I've fought all the way to 6AM myself. After the game, my mind was alert and I wasn't able to get to sleep for nearly an entire day.

The record for the longest match in moves used to be 390, but it has now grown to an astounding 560. It's not only mental strength, but physical stamina one needs to play shogi.

Chapter 82

Burnt Field ④



—It was apparent
to everyone watching
that he was long
past his limit.
He was slumped over,
putting all of his weight
on his armrest, like a
puddle of mud.
Just staring
at the board,
like he was about
to fall forward
onto it.

the [illegible] fingers were doling out
——But...
were red,
heavy,
much like a river of slowly overflowing lava
and burning incredibly bright.

No shogi player
It was an intense battle.
could deny that
they'd like to play a game like this.

—And
after a war spanning 169 moves,
with one sentence Shimada-san seemed to squeeze out of himself,
the curtain fell.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AFTER 169 MOVES, VICTORY GOES TO THE SENTE, YANAGIHARA KISHOU
AND BECAUSE HE HAS NOW ACHIEVED RETAINING KISHOU CHAMPION FOR 10 TOTAL PERIODS,
HE HAS EARNED THE TITLE OF 'ETERNAL KISHOU'
OOHH!
SAKU-CHAN!!
YOU DID IT!! THAT'S 10 TOTAL PERIODS!!
WAAAAA
HE DID IT!! HE GOT THE 'ETERNAL' TITLE!!
ALL RIIIGHT!

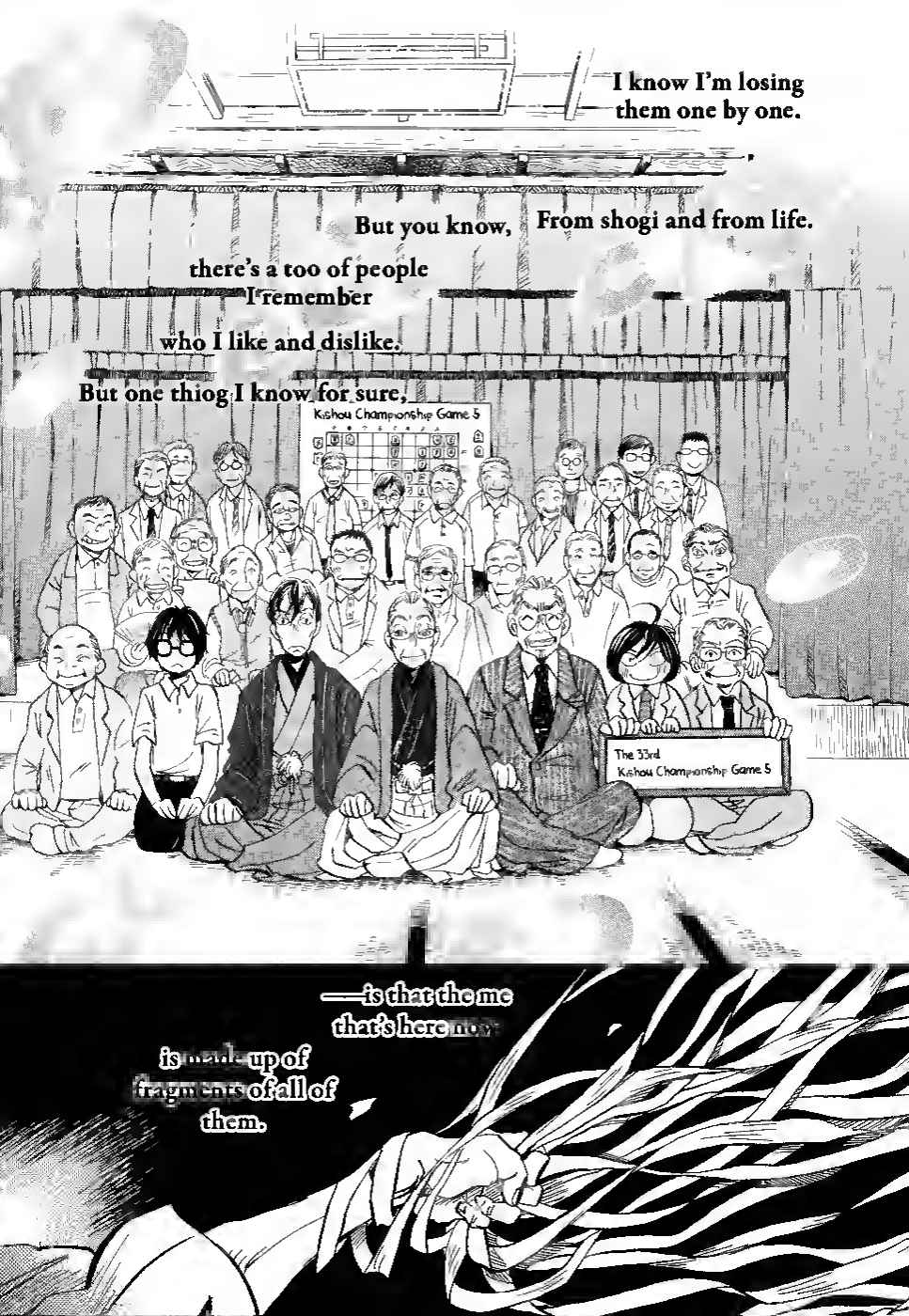
YANAGI-HARA-SENSEI
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
.....
I'M FINE
THOUGH MY KNEES FEEL LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO GIVE OUT
THANK YOU
!!
SAKU-CHAN!
SAKU-CHAN!!
YANAGIHARA KISHOU
WHAT ABOUT THE POST-MORTEM?!
WAAAH
SAKU-CHAN
CONGRATS !!
WAAHH
YANAGIHARA-SENSEI!!
WAA
WOW! THAT WAS SOME INCREDIBLE SHOGI!

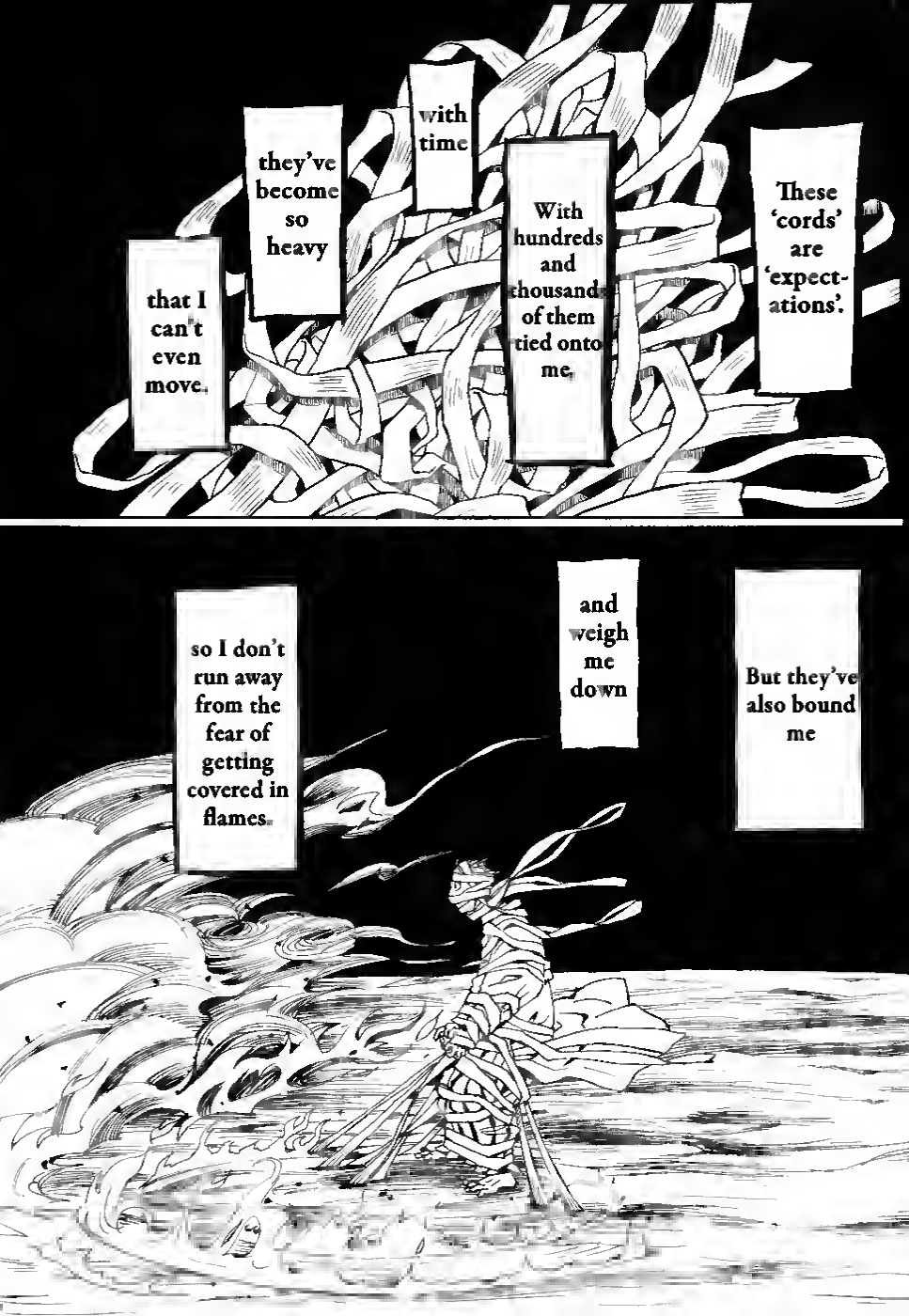
GAN-CHAN!
HUH?!
UH, AH,
M-ME?
WHAT IS IT, SAKU-CHAN?
——YOU BROUGHT A CAMERA WITH YOU, RIGHT?
TAKE THE PHOTO FOR ME
HUH?
C'MON, TAKE IT!!
WE'LL HAVE A PHOTO WITH EVERYBODY HERE.
AH!!
H-HOLD ON, JUST A SECOND!!

Heave-ho
TANABE-SAN!! GET BEHIND SAKU-CHAN!!
SHOULD THE SECOND ROW SIT HERE?
BRING IT HERE.
OH, GOOD IDEA, BOU.
SFX: ZAWA ZAWA (CHATTER)
SFX: WAI WAI WAI WAI
SFX: WAI WAI WAI WAI
SFX: WAI WAI ZAWA ZAWA (CHATTER)
¡WAAA! RIGHT NEXT TO YOU?!!
O-Okay!!
The 33rd Kishou Championship Game S
HOW ABOUT YOU HOLD THIS?
TO COMMEMORATE IT?
The 33rd Kishou Championship Game
SPEAKING OF WHICH, GAN-CHAN, AREN'T YOU GONNA GET IN THE PHOTO?
THAT'S NOT GONNA FIX THIS DANGIT!!
YOU CAN USE A TIMER, RIGHT?
Ha Ha Ha
DON'T YOU HAVE A WIDE-ANGLE LENS OR SOMETHING?
PACK YOURSELF IN CLOSER!!
WHAT? THERE'S NO WAY THIS HUGE MOB IS ALL GONNA FIT IN THE FRAME.
Yanagihara-sensei is a hero to our generation!!!
He was so goshdarn cool!!
Shou
匠
Yanagihara Sakutarou
Yanagihara Goods
We couldn't help it, Kai!
Guys, didn't you come here to cheer for me?
Huuh
OH, SHI-MADA!!
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
GET IN ON THIS, TOO, WON'CHA?!
A commemorative photo? You want me in that too?
SFX: TSUYATSUYA (SHINY) IKIKI (LIVELY)

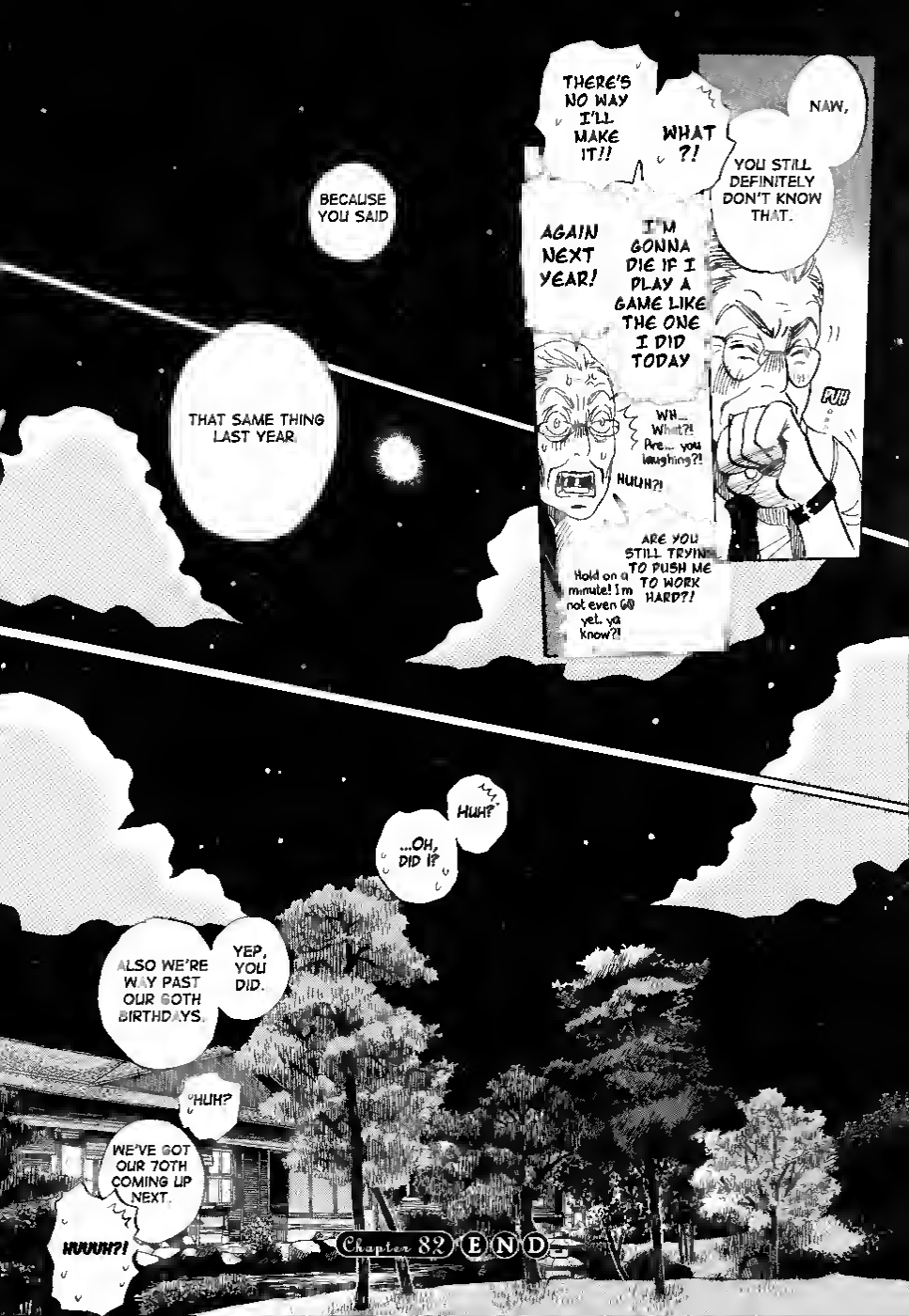
AFTER SEEING YANAGIHARA-SENSEI WORK SO HARD
WE FEEL LIKE WE'VE GOT TO KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES TOO
MAYBE WE'LL ADD MORE LIRUI AND THE ANGELICA ROOTS AT OUR GREENHOUSE?!
WE WON'T BE WORKING AWAY FROM HOME ANYMORE THOUGH.
MAYBE WITH OUR GREENHOUSE WE CAN MAKE SOME MONEY IN WINTER TOO?
I still wanna be able to give our grandchildren pocket money!!
MAYBE I'LL PLANT EVEN MORE GARLIC CHIVES AND ONIONS FOR NEXT YEAR?!!
YUP, YUP!!
HA HA HA
HOLD OOOOO OON!!
SAKU-CHAAAN! ME! LET ME IN THE PHOTO TOO!!
WHAT THE HELL?! THE MATCH IS OVER!!
You just came to drink didn't you?!
you bastard!
OF COURSE, I'LL BE RIIIIGHT NEEEXT TO YOU, SAKU-CHAN!
SFX: SHUTAHH BABAAN

'I ALWAYS LOSE WHEN YOU COME TO WATCH, TOKU-CHAN, SO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T COME!'
—YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SAID THAT, REMEMBER, SAKU-CHAN ?!!
HUH?
OH, DID I?
How could you?!
HA HA HA HA
HUH?
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE, PREY TELL?!
Geez, you're really going senile.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, SAKU-CHAN.
Heave-ho!!
HAAAH
HEY, EVERYBODY!
QUIET DOWN, WOULD YA?!
I'M TAKING THE PHOTO!!
OKAY, OKAY.
EVERYONE, SHUSH!!
SMILE!
'Saying goodbye is life.
—Who said that, again?
It's a good, accurate quote.
OKAY!!
10 seconds until the shutter goes off!
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10


I know I'm losing them one by one.
But you know, From shogi and from life.
there's a too of people I remember
who I like and dislike.
But one thiog I know for sure,
Kishou Championship Game 5
The 33rd Kishou Championship Game 5
——is that the me that's here now
is made up of fragments of all of them.


These 'cords' are 'expect-ations'.
With hundreds and thousands of them tied onto me,
with time
they've become so heavy
that I can't even move.
But they've also bound me
and weigh me down
so I don't run away from the fear of getting covered in flames.

HUH?!
WH-WHAT?!
I'm not gonna say thanks though!!
WAIT,
'Cause every time I get seriously intense!
Every single time I seriously think 'I'm really gonna die this time!'
Goddammit!
SERIOUSLY
These people sit safe on the sidelines and say 'you've got to work harder' and 'you've got to get your head in the game' and 'Play with gratitude'!
Those people, taking it upon themselves to entrust their dreams to other people!
Of course I'm gonna work hard! You don't need to tell me every single time!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
Are you crying?!
——In that case, maybe you could say it's thanks to that 'weight'
that I was able to make it this far without ever running away...
IRONIC, ISN'T IT...?
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT
NEXT YEAR...
BUT...


THERE'S NO WAY I'LL MAKE IT!!
WHAT?!
NAW,
YOU STILL DEFINITELY DON'T KNOW THAT.
AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
I'M GONNA DIE IF I PLAY A GAME LIKE THE ONE I DID TODAY
FUH
WH... What?! Are... you laughing?!
HUUH?!
ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO PUSH ME TO WORK HARD?!
Hold on a minute! I'm not even 60 yet, ya know?!
BECAUSE YOU SAID
THAT SAME THING LAST YEAR.
HUH?
...OH, DID I?
YEP, YOU DID.
ALSO WE'RE WAY PAST OUR 60TH BIRTHDAYS.
HUH?
WE'VE GOT OUR 70TH COMING UP NEXT.
HUUUH?!
Chapter 82 END

Chapter 83

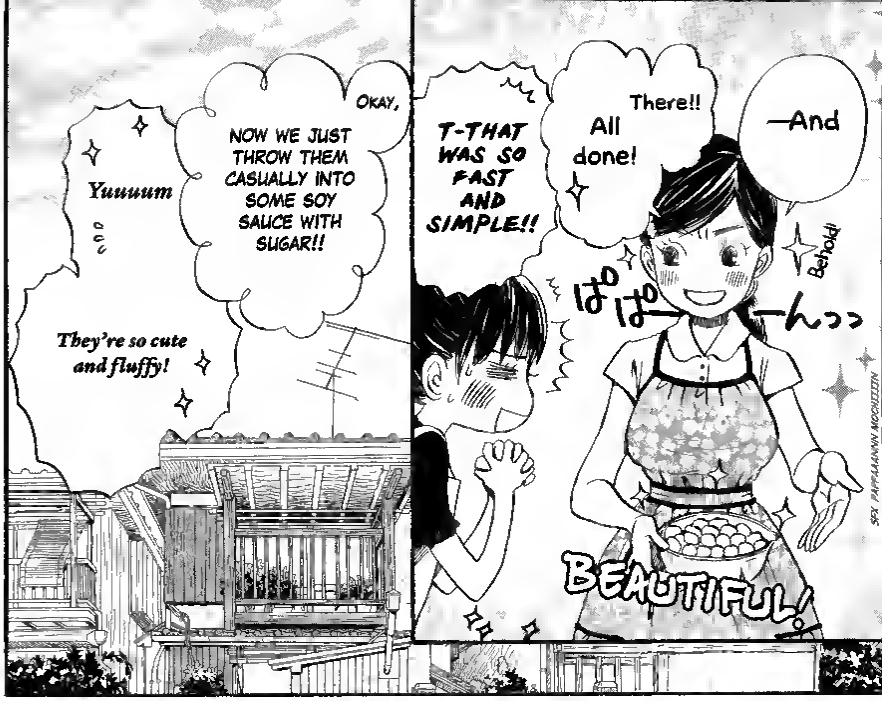
Being Here

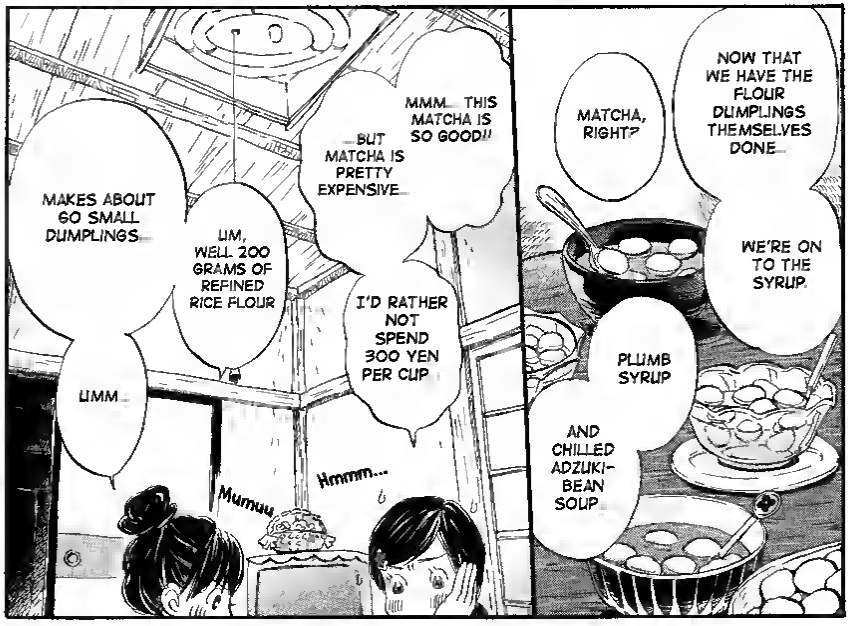
'When you live with a cat you end up liking the cat too much, do you end up getting bad at drawing cats that are that cute?'
—Just as my friend said, I'm no good at drawing cats anymore.

SFX: KOKKUI (NOD)
OKAY!
Refined Rice Flour
FOR NOW, WE TRY USING 200 GRAMS FOR THE STICKY RICE FLOUR DUMPLINGS?
WELL,
HOW ABOUT AS AN 'EXPERIMENT'
And this year, Ojii-chan let us decide on the menu.
Mikazuki Temple has their own stand.
—At the annual Summer Festival in the shopping district
Sangatsu Town Shopping District
SANGATSU FESTIVAL
July 28th (Sun.)
Special Sales
Lots of Stands (Wryy)
Hero Monster
Photography Event
Kids Co
*Children will be distributed a super-ball
HOW ABOUT WE CALL IT 'CHILLED RICE FLOUR DUMPLING SYRUP'?
OKAY!
THAT'LL BE SO CUTE!!

TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
THE WAY YOU MAKE STICKY RICE FLOUR DUMPLINGS
UHU HU
So? Easy, right?
A ha ha...
HUH?! UM— YEAH, SOUNDS SIMPLE
HUUUU?
ACTUALLY ISN'T IT WAY TOO SIMPLE?!
(1)
KNEAD THE REFINED RICE FLOUR IN WATER
(2)
ROLL IT INTO A BALL AND BOIL IT.
—THAT IS ALL
WE'LL GO WITH 200 GRAMS FOR THE RICE FLOUR
AND ABOUT 160 CC FOR THE WATER I THINK
They sell white rice flour at the supermarket!
YOU POUR THE FLOUR INTO A BOWL,
THEN ADD IN THE WATER A LITTLE AT A TIME AND MIX IT TOGETHER
Once it's well mixed, put a lot of pressure and knead it.
IF YOU PUT IN TOO MUCH WATER IT GETS ALL STICKY WHICH MAKES IT HARD TO ROLL INTO BALLS.
SO YOU'LL WANT TO STOP WHILE IT'S STILL HOLDING TOGETHER WELL
—THEN YOU ROLL THOSE INTO LONG RODS WITH YOUR HANDS
SFX GORO GORO GOROGORO (ROLL ROLL ROLL)
THEN RIP OFF BITE-SIZED PIECES WITH YOUR FINGERS
SFX MOGI MOGI (PULL PULL)

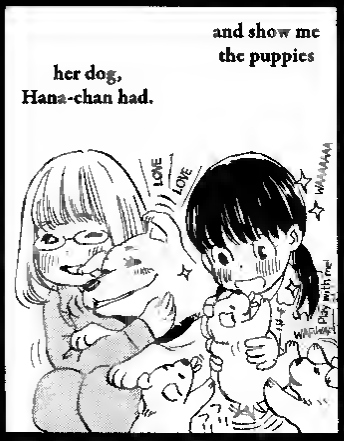
ONEI-CHAN, IS THIS A GOOD SIZE?
IS IT SMALL ENOUGH?
Is it okay to make them round like this?
ちまっっ
IT'S GOOD
THEY'LL EXPAND A BIT WHEN WE BOIL THEM, SO THAT'S PERFECT
FLOUR DUMPLINGS THAT ARE A BIT LARGER GET A DENT IN THEM LIKE THIS
BUT... THAT'S WHY WE'RE USING SMALL GRAINS THIS TIME
BUT MAYBE THOSE ARE A BIT TOO BIG?
YUP YOU'RE REALLY GOOD MOMO
Dumpl ings!!
These are Momo's!
MHM I THINK I'M GETTING THE HANG OF IT!!
THIS IS REALLY FUN!
SFX KONE KONE (KNEAD KNEAD) KURU KURU (ROLL ROLL) WASHITTAWASHITYA (GUNI GUNI)
THEN YOU PUT THEM INTO ICE WATER
WHICH MAKES THEM HOLD THEIR SHAPE
AFTER 2 TO 3 MINUTES THEY'LL BURBLE UP TO THE SURFACE
Just a little more I think.
AND YOU KEEP BOILING IT FOR ABOUT 1 MINUTE AFTER THAT
A little more?
AND THEN
PUT THIS IN THE BOILING WATER
SFX BARA BARA TOPUN TOPUN GUKUGUKU (GLUG GLUG)

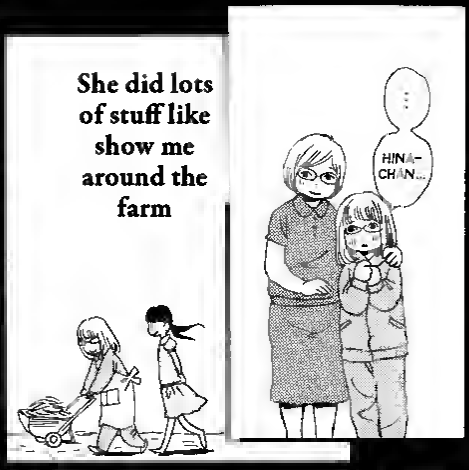

Okay,
Now we just throw them casually into some soy sauce with sugar!!
Yuuuum
They're so cute and fluffy!
T-that was so fast and simple!!
All done!
There!!
—And
Behold!
ぱぱーんっっ
BEAUTIFUL!
SFX: PAPPAANNN NOONEEEN


Mmm... this matcha is so good!!
...But matcha is pretty expensive...
I'd rather not spend 300 yen per cup
Hmmm...
Mumuu
Umm...
Um, well 200 grams of refined rice flour
makes about 60 small dumplings...
Matcha, right?
Now that we have the flour dumplings themselves done...
We're on to the syrup.
Plumb syrup
And chilled adzuki-bean soup

WE ADD IN SOME BLACK PEARL TAPIOCA?
AH, THEN HOW ABOUT
THAT COLOR COULD BE A GOOD ACCENT!
THAT SOUNDS REALLY GOOD!!
YES!!
OH, THAT COULD BE GOOD!! AND TEA LEAVES FOR BLACK TEA WOULD DEFINITELY BE CHEAPER!!
HOW ABOUT SOME COLD MILK TEA?!
SOME THAT'S RICH AND SWEET!!
THAT'S RIGHT!! THEN,
NAITA
GREAT IDEA!
LET'S ASK!!
I KNOW, LET'S HAVE KIRIYAMA-KUN WASH THEM!!
AND JUST KEEP WASHING THEM - THOUGH THAT MIGHT BE KIND OF A PAIN
WE SCRAPE TOGETHER ALL THE BOWLS HERE AT MIKAZUKI TEMPLE AND AUNTIE MISAKI'S SHOP
SINCE THE TAPIOCA WILL COST A LOT, INSTEAD OF USING THROW-AWAY BOWLS AND SPOONS
OJII-CHAN— W— WHAT DO YOU THINK?
—AND TAPIOCA, EH—?
SEEMS YOU SOAKED THEM IN COLD WATER —MM
HMM—
THE DUMPLINGS ARE FAIRLY WELL MADE
HM ANOTHER HIGH-CALORIE ITEM
QUITE THE CONSISTENCY IT'S GOT TO IT
This is a kind of starch ain't it?
もっきゅ MOKKYU
もっきゅ MOKKYU
もっきゅ MOKKYU...

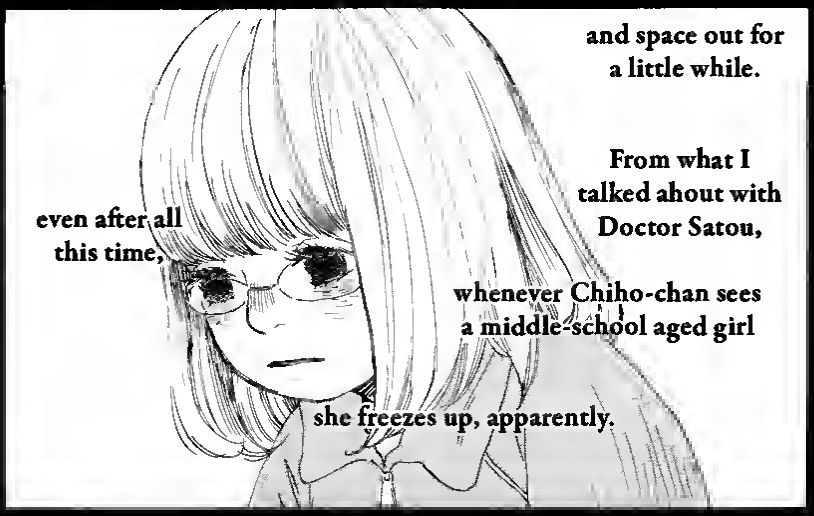
—THIS PART IS REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL
PLUMB SYRUP? SUCH A NICE, CRISP FLAVOR.
We did it!
GETTING SOME ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS AT THE STAND WOULD BE NICE.
I THINK YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LIKE IT.
WELL,
I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT
It's a festival after all.
Mmm
KYAAA
Goddammit that was tasty...
THAT'S
THE PLUMB SYRUP CHIHO-CHAN MADE.
.....
THAT SO?
SMELLS LIKE GREAT PLUMBS.
—As soon as summer arrived
I went to see Chiho-chan.
CHIHO-CHAAAN!


her dog,
Hana-chan had.
and show me
the puppies
LOVE
LOVE
WAHAHAHA
Play with me


She did lots
of stuff like
show me
around the
farm
HINA-
CHAN...

sometimes
Chiho-chan
would get
really quiet

And when
we were
talking


and space out for
a little while.
From what I
talked about with
Doctor Satou,
even after all
this time,
whenever Chiho-chan sees
a middle-school aged girl
she freezes up, apparently.

—And her body
fights really hard against it, apparently.
When she sees girls her own age
feelings of pain and frustration
come rushing into her mind...
The doctor told me she is pushing herself really hard here
like she used to again.
little by little
so she can talk and act
'Thank you so much for being Chiho's ally,' her mom said over and over, shaking my hands.
'Chiho and I will be here giving it our all.'
—In the evening, Chiho-chan caught a fever
and her mom brought us to the train station by car.

Chiho-chan is

fighting even now.

—THE 3RD STEP IS FOR HER TO MAKE FRIENDS HER OWN AGE...

SFX: KYUH (TIGHT)

to meet with her again.

then I'm going

—And

Photos of everyone enjoying the plumb syrup.

I'm going to send Chiho-chan photos of the summer festival.

LET'S BEGIN, SHALL WE?

OKAY, READY TO GET GOING?

WELCOME!
WE'RE MIKAZUKI TEMPLE!
IT'S NICE AND COOOOL!
SWEEET, CHILLED FLOUR DUMPLING SYRUP!
Why not try some cold, sweeet chilled flour dumpling syrup?
Souvenir Fluffy Daruma
Chilled Flour Dumpling Syrup 300 Yen
Milk Tea
MIKAZUKI TEMPLE
Adzuki Bean Flavor
Plumb Syrup Flavor
Milk Tea Flavor
Flour Dumpling Syrup with Tapioca
Chilled Flour Dumpling Syrup 300 Yen
Miyashiame

THANK YOOOU!
It looks so goood!
HERE'S YOUR PLUMB SYRUP!
THANK YOU KIRIYAMA-KUN!
I'll just put these back here
I'M BRINGING OUT NEW PLAAATES!
カチャ カチャ
SFX: KACHA KACHA
BUSINESS IS REALLY BOOMING
EVEN THESE ARE SELLING, SO MANY PEOPLE ARE HOOKED.
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF CUSTOMERS
Thank you very much
At least drink some hiya-shiame.
SORRY FOR RUNNING YOU ALL OVER THE PLACE, KID.
AND A CLOTH COULD YOU PUT THE WASHED ONES HERE?
AFTER THAT, COULD YOU UNRAVEL TWO ROLLS OF 100 YEN COINS AND PUT THEM IN HERE?
THIS IS GREAT! THANKS SO MUCH!!
KIRIYAMA-KUN, THIS IS GREAT! HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH IT?!
T/N: HIYASHIAME IS A KIND OF CHILLED SOFT DRINK OFTEN DRANK DURING THE SUMMER
SFX: TEKI PAKA

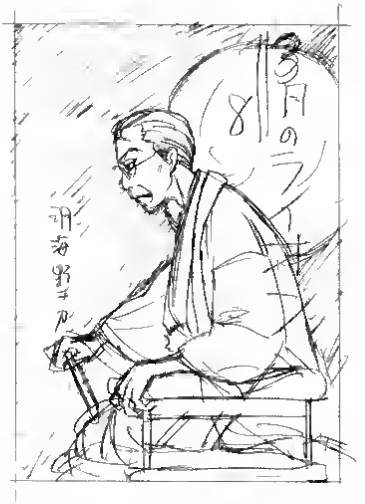
SFX: NUHH
HEEEY, HOW'S IT GOING?
KIRIYAMA-KUN!
WOULD YOU COME HERE A SEC, KIRIYAMA-KUN?!!
AH, TAKAHASHI-KUN
HUH...? DID YOU GET A LOT BIGGER AGAIN?
WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME
SO I'M KIND OF...
SURPRISED
IT'S FUN
This is plum syrup Chiho-chan made!
He's huuuge
Thanks
HEEEEW
THEY'RE DOING JUST FINE
IT'S OKAY
Welcoooome!
Delicious! Three-color
What do you think?
HM...
BAASAN... MIKAKO

WHAT A NICE NIGHT..
ISN'T IT, REI-CHAN?
I REALLY LIKE THESE.
I THINK NIGHTS LIKE THESE ARE MY FAVORITE

MIKAZUKI TEMPLE
YEAH.
……
おみやげに
名物 三日月焼
白玉ぜんざい 3杯 円
冷やし 白玉ソーダ
ミルクティ 極うまプリン あずき
SFX: HAMUTEN... MOSSHEET CRUNCH...
ちゃーんと みっしり…
¥100
¥500
WHOA
IT'S STILL NOT EVEN 7 O'CLOCK
WE GOT ALL THAT THIS FAST?!
SFX: TOKUN TOKUN... (HEARTBEAT) FURU-FURU... (SHAKING)
TH... THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING,
EVEN THE CURRY WE MADE FOR OUR DINNER
MIGHT EVEN FLY OFF THE SHELVES!
O-ONEI-CHAN! CALM DOWN!!
Not the curry! We're a sweets shop!

YOU'VE GOT SOY FLOUR AND BROWN SUGAR SYRUP, DON'T YOU?!!
Sales-man
YOU IDIOTS!
Ojii-chan!!
O-
LET'S BOIL MORE!
RIGHT NOOW!!!
WE ONLY HAVE ONE PACK OF FLOUR DUMPLINGS
And we'd made so many!
ONE!-CHAN!
OH NO!!
SFX: GYAAAAN
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?! WE'RE MAKING SUCH A KILLING RIGHT NOW!!
WE CAN'T!! WE'RE ALL OUT OF SYRUP!!
SFX: KARAH SUHH
Oookay!!
Kawamoto familyyyy, let's gooo!
Oooo!!
I'LL KNEAD THE DUMP-LINGS!!
KID, YOU GO BUY SOME ICE AND BRING IT HERE!!
ASK THAT TAKAHASHI PUNK, HE'LL KNOW WHERE TO GET IT!!
Y-YES SIR!!
AKARI, YOU BOIL SOME WATER.
YES, SIR!
HINA, YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS OVER HERE!
OKAY!!

Chapter 83 END



T-da-san the editor, readers of Young Animal, designer of the cover, Nawata-san, everyone at Kappan Printing, all of my assistants that drew such beautiful backgrounds, all of the bookstore workers all over the country, supervisor Yamazaki-sensei and everyone that read this, I want to express my thanks from the bottom of my heart...

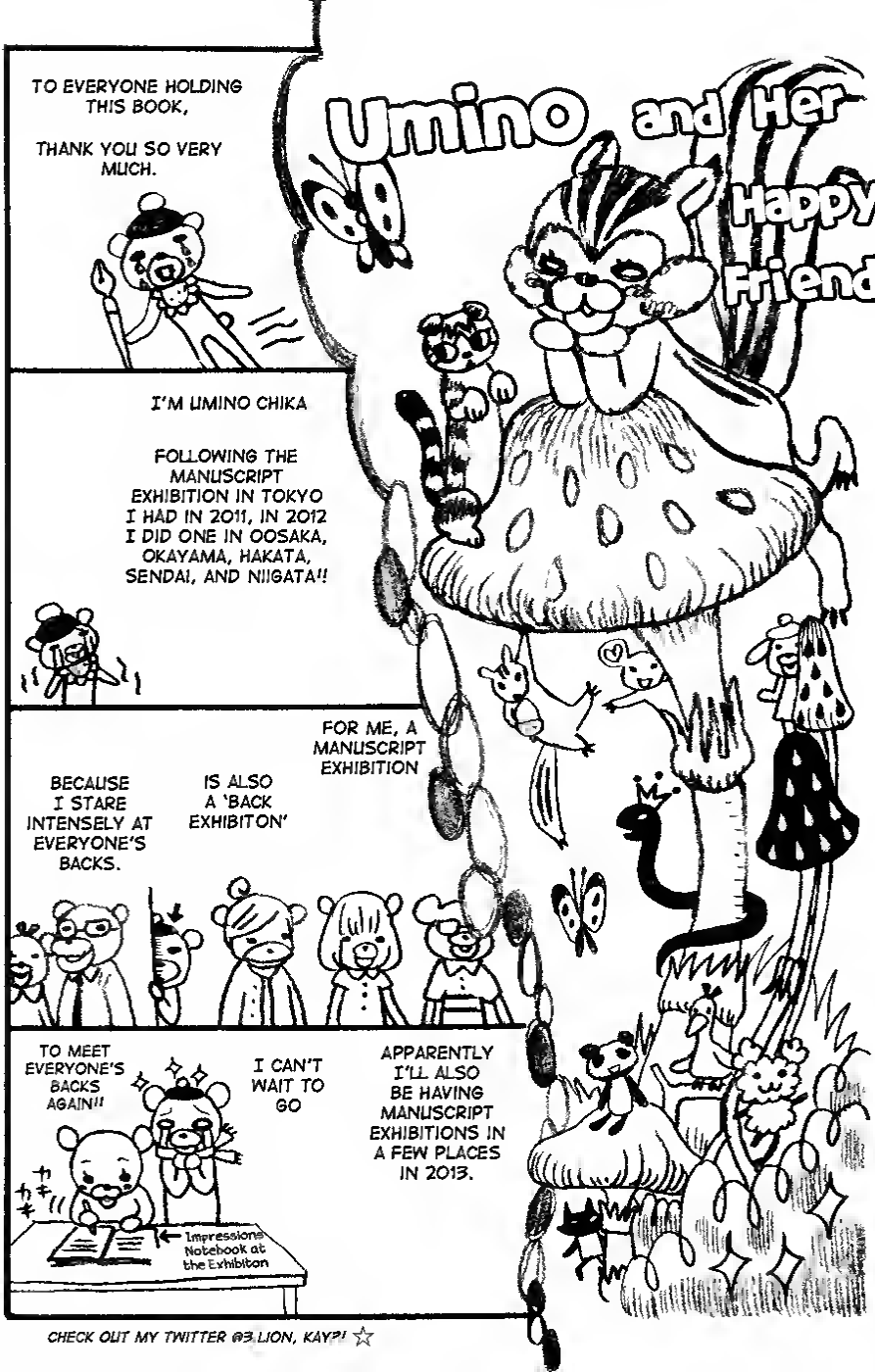
-Umino Chica

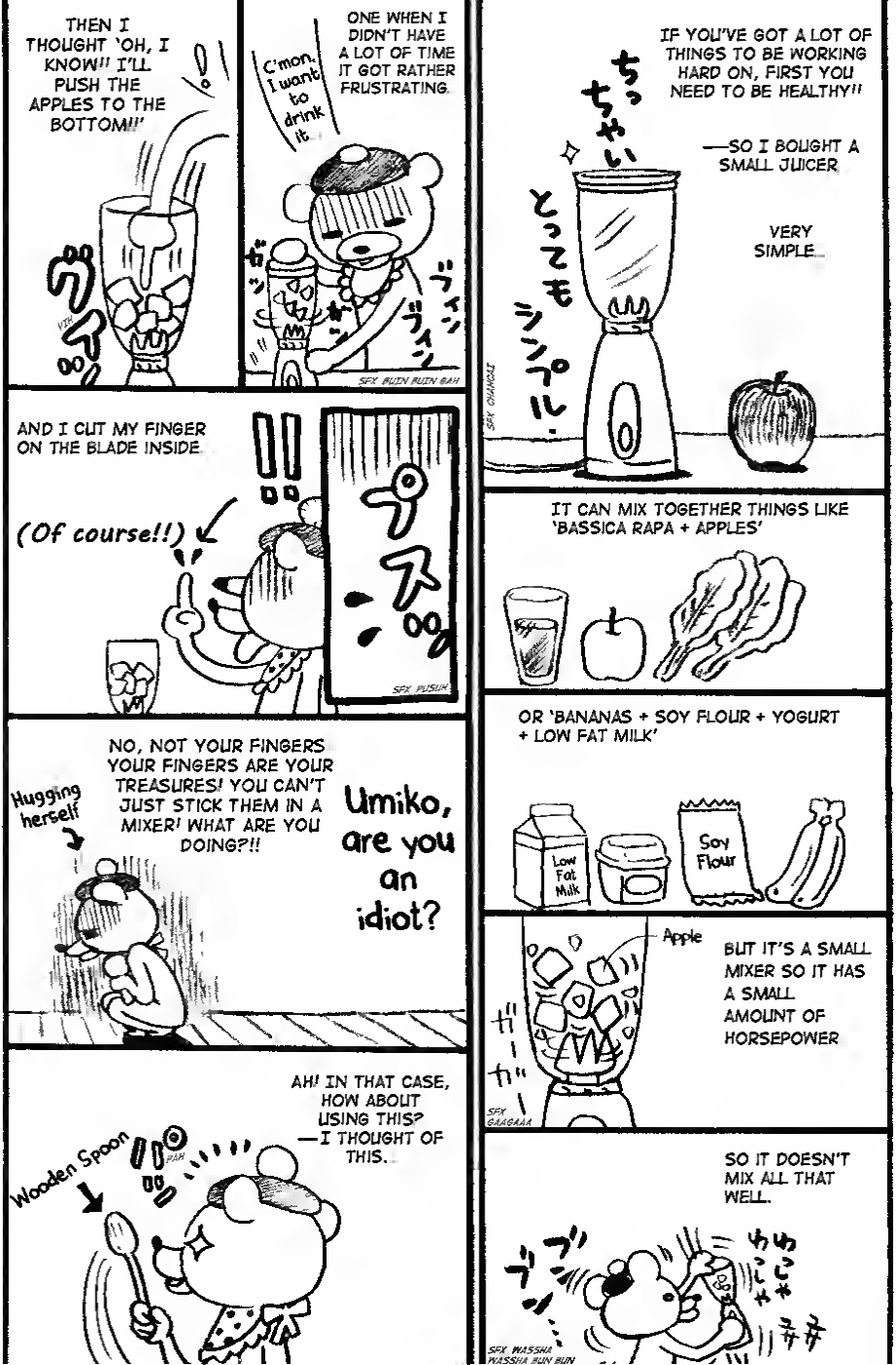
Thanks for the un-official script and raws too! kewl & Maris-i looking gooood (Please buy the volumes everyone!)

-Orthin

Yes do that! Go buy it everyone

-kewl


Umino and Her Happy Friends
TO EVERYONE HOLDING THIS BOOK,
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.
I'M UMINO CHIKA
FOLLOWING THE MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITION IN TOKYO I HAD IN 2011, IN 2012 I DID ONE IN OOSAKA, OKAYAMA, HAKATA, SENDAI, AND NIIGATA!!
FOR ME, A MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITION
BECAUSE I STARE INTENSELY AT EVERYONE'S BACKS.
IS ALSO A 'BACK EXHIBITON'
TO MEET EVERYONE'S BACKS AGAIN!!
I CAN'T WAIT TO GO
APPARENTLY I'LL ALSO BE HAVING MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITIONS IN A FEW PLACES IN 2013.
Impressions Notebook at the Exhibition
SPX KAKI KAKI (SCRATCH SCRATCH)
CHECK OUT MY TWITTER @3_LION_KAY?!


THEN I THOUGHT 'OH, I KNOW!! I'LL PUSH THE APPLES TO THE BOTTOM!!'
ONE WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME IT GOT RATHER FRUSTRATING.
C'mon, I want to drink it.
SFX: RUIN RUIN BAH
IF YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS TO BE WORKING HARD ON, FIRST YOU NEED TO BE HEALTHY!!
ちっちゃい
とってもシンプル。
—SO I BOUGHT A SMALL JUICER
VERY SIMPLE.
SFX: CHARGE
AND I CUT MY FINGER ON THE BLADE INSIDE.
(Of course!!)
プス
SFX: PUSUH
IT CAN MIX TOGETHER THINGS LIKE 'BASSICA RAPA + APPLES'
OR 'BANANAS + SOY FLOUR + YOGURT + LOW FAT MILK'
Low Fat Milk
Soy Flour
NO, NOT YOUR FINGERS YOUR FINGERS ARE YOUR TREASURES! YOU CAN'T JUST STICK THEM IN A MIXER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
Hugging herself
Umiko, are you an idiot?
Apple
BUT IT'S A SMALL MIXER SO IT HAS A SMALL AMOUNT OF HORSEPOWER
SFX: GAAGAAA
AH! IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT USING THIS? —I THOUGHT OF THIS.
Wooden Spoon
SO IT DOESN'T MIX ALL THAT WELL.
SFX: WASSHA WASSHA RUN RUN

TRY TO NOTICE, UMIKO... BEFORE THE SPOON TURNS INTO SPLINTERS!!!

*EVERYONE, PLEASE NEVER DO SOMETHING THIS STUPID. PROMISE ME, OKAY...?

Apple juice filled with bits of wood

IF I USE THIS I'LL BE 100% SAFE.

NICE ONE, UMIKO! ☆

YOU'RE SO SMART!! ☆

ぐいっ

カチッ

SFX: GUIH KACHIN

SOUND EFFECTS

ビシ

ガリ

ベキッ

バキ

ボキ

ボリバリ

I THINK ON THE DAY IT GOES ON SALE, I'LL GO TO A BOOKSTORE AGAIN

AND STARE AT EVERYONE'S BACKS.

THOSE ARE MY HAPPIEST MOMENTS.

BOOKSTORE

Beam

Trying to hide apparently

Lion

THIS VOLUME 8 IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THAT VERY UMIKO!!

I PUT ALL I HAD INTO DRAWING IT...

SFX: JJJJJ (STARE)

KNOWING THAT YOU KEEP READING MAKES ME SO HAPPY.

UMINO CHICA

Mama gives her regards

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE THAT MAKES THOSE 'HAPPY MOMENTS' POSSIBLE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...

I WANT TO KEEP TIRELESSLY DRAWING PUSHING OUT PAGE AFTER PAGE THROUGH ALL THE DIFFICULTY.

大好評発売中!!

定価 500円(税込)
A5判　白泉社刊

羽海野チカがデビュー当初、各誌に描いた珠玉の短編をついに集約して1冊に…。
少年探偵・バレエ・ショートストーリー・エッセイなど
様々なジャンルを集めた短編集！

羽海野チカ

スピカ

羽海野チカ初期短編集

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 8

RAW PROVIDER:	MARIS
TRANSLATOR:	KEWLO210
REDRAWER:	KEWLO210, ORTHIO
CLEANER:	KEWLO210, ORTHIO
TYPESETTER:	KEWLO210, ORTHIO
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